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S. 2786

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 20 (legislative day, JANUARY 7), 1954

Mr. SPARKMAN (for himself, Mr. HILL, Mr. EASTLAND, Mr. STENNIS, Mr. ROBERTSON, Mr. KEFAUVER, Mr. GORE, Mr. CLEMENTS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. NEELY, Mr. HOLLAND, and Mr. LENNON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

A BILL

Granting the consent and approval of Congress to the
Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given
4 to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Com-
5 pact, as hereinafter set out. Such compact reads as follows:

6 SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE
7 PROTECTION COMPACT

8 ARTICLE I.

9 The purpose of this compact is to promote effective pre-
10 vention and control of forest fires in the Southeastern region

1 of the United States by the development of integrated forest
2 fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting
3 services by the member states, by providing for mutual aid
4 in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the
5 region and with states which are party to other Regional
6 Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for
7 more adequate forest protection.

8 ARTICLE II.

9 This compact shall become operative immediately as to
10 those states ratifying it whenever any two or more of the
11 states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi,
12 North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and
13 West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and
14 Congress has given consent thereto. Any state not men-
15 tioned in this article which is contiguous with any member
16 state may become a party to this compact, subject to
17 approval by the legislature of each of the member states.

18 ARTICLE III.

19 In each state, the state forester or officer holding the
20 equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control
21 shall act as compact administrator for that state and shall consult
22 with like officials of the other member states and shall im-
23 plement cooperation between such states in forest fire preven-
24 tion and control.

1 The compact administrators of the member states shall
2 coordinate the services of the member states and provide
3 administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of
4 this compact.

5 There shall be established an advisory committee of leg-
6 islators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry
7 or forest products industries representatives which shall meet
8 from time to time with the compact administrators. Each
9 member state shall name one member of the Senate and one
10 member of the House of Representatives who shall be desig-
11 nated by that state's commission on interstate cooperation,
12 or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate the
13 said members, they shall be designated in accordance with
14 laws of that state; and the Governor of each member state
15 shall appoint two representatives, one of whom shall be asso-
16 ciated with forestry or forest products industries to comprise
17 the membership of the advisory committee. Action shall be
18 taken by a majority of the compacting states, and each state
19 shall be entitled to one vote.

20 The compact administrators shall formulate and, in ac-
21 cordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional
22 forest fire plan for the member states.

23 It shall be the duty of each member state to formulate
24 and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state and take

1 such measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest
2 fire plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the
3 compact administrators.

4 ARTICLE IV.

5 Whenever the state forest fire control agency of a
6 member state requests aid from the state forest fire con-
7 trol agency of any other member state in combating, con-
8 trolling or preventing forest fires, it shall be the duty
9 of the state forest fire control agency of that state to render
10 all possible aid to the requesting agency which is consonant
11 with the maintenance of protection at home.

12 ARTICLE V.

13 Whenever the forces of any member state are render-
14 ing outside aid pursuant to the request of another mem-
15 ber state under this compact, the employees of such state
16 shall, under the direction of the officers of the state to
17 which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (ex-
18 cept the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges and
19 immunities as comparable employees of the state to which
20 they are rendering aid.

21 No member state or its officers or employees rendering
22 outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on
23 account of any act or omission on the part of such forces
24 while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance, or
25 use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith:

1 Provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as relieving
2 any person from liability for his own negligent act or omis-
3 sion, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omis-
4 sion upon any state.

5 All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter,
6 that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state
7 or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of
8 a third state on account of or in connection with a re-
9 quest for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting
10 state.

11 Any member state rendering outside aid pursuant to
12 this compact shall be reimbursed by the member state re-
13 ceiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense in-
14 curred in the operation of any equipment answering a re-
15 quest for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transporta-
16 tion, wages, salaries, and subsistence of employees and
17 maintenance of equipment incurred in connection with such
18 request: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall pre-
19 vent any assisting member state from assuming such loss,
20 damage, expense or other cost or from loaning such equip-
21 ment or from donating such service to the receiving member
22 state without charge or cost.

23 Each member state shall provide for the payment of
24 compensation and death benefits to injured employees and

1 the representatives of deceased employees in case employees
2 sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid pur-
3 suant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same
4 terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such
5 state.

6 For the purposes of this compact the term employee shall
7 include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within
8 the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under the
9 laws thereof.

10 The compact administrators shall formulate procedures
11 for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this
12 article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

13 ARTICLE VI.

14 Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to
15 affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit cur-
16 tailment or diminution of the forest fire fighting forces, equip-
17 ment, services or facilities of any member state.

18 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or
19 restrict the powers of any state ratifying the same to provide
20 for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires,
21 or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws,
22 rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, con-
23 trol and extinguishment in such state.

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between any federal agency and a member state or states.

4 ARTICLE VII.

5 The compact administrators may request the United
6 States Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating
7 agency of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection
8 Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in
9 each state, and the United States Forest Service may accept
10 responsibility for preparing and presenting to the compact
11 administrators its recommendations with respect to the re-
12 gional fire plan. Representatives of any federal agency en-
13 gaged in forest fire prevention and control may attend
14 meetings of the compact administrators.

15 ARTICLE VIII.

The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or preventing forest fires shall be operative as between any state party to this compact and any other state which is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region: Provided, that the legislature of such other state shall have given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this compact.

ARTICLE IX.

1
2 This compact shall continue in force and remain binding
3 on each state ratifying it until the legislature or the Governor
4 of such state, as the laws of such state shall provide, takes
5 action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be
6 effective until six months after notice thereof has been sent
7 by the chief executive of the state desiring to withdraw to the
8 chief executives of all states then parties to the compact.

9 SEC. 2. Without further submission of the compact, the
10 consent of Congress is given to any State to become a party
11 to it in accordance with its terms.

12 SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is
13 expressly reserved.

A BILL

Granting the consent and approval of Congress
to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire
Protection Compact.

By Mr. SPARKMAN, Mr. HILL, Mr. EASTLAND,
Mr. STENNIS, Mr. ROBERTSON, Mr. KEFAUVER,
Mr. GORE, Mr. CLEMENTS, Mr. COOPER, Mr.
NEELY, Mr. HOLLAND, and Mr. LENNON

JANUARY 20 (legislative day, JANUARY 7), 1954
Read twice and referred to the Committee on
Agriculture and Forestry

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

These grants would be made on a project basis to States and to public and non-profit agencies or organizations. They would be available for paying part of the cost of combating unusually severe public health problems in specific geographical areas, of carrying out special projects which hold unique promise of contributing to the solution of multi-State public health problems, and of meeting public health problems of national significance or concern.

STATE PLANS

Payments from allotments for the first type of grant (for support of public health services) would be conditioned upon submission of a plan by the State health authority (and mental health authority in connection with mental health), which meets requirements prescribed in regulations of the Surgeon General.

As under existing law, regulations would be issued by the Surgeon General, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and only after consultation with and, insofar as practicable, the concurrence of the State health (or mental health) authorities.

ADMINISTRATION

The grants would continue, as under existing law, to be administered through the Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

TRANSITION PROVISIONS

In order to provide States an opportunity to adjust their finances to the new allotment formulas, provision would be made to limit to 10 percent any decrease in allotments which any State would receive in any 1 year by virtue of the formula change.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENTS

These amendments to the Public Health Service Act would not become effective until July 1, 1955.

PROPOSED NATIONAL DEFENSE LEGISLATION

Mr. SALTONSTALL. Mr. President, by request, I introduce for appropriate reference, two bills relating to the Armed Forces. These bills are recommended by the Department of Defense and are accompanied by letters of transmittal from the Department explaining the purpose of the bill in each case.

Also, by request, I introduce for appropriate reference a bill to promote the national defense by authorizing the construction of aeronautical research facilities of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and a bill to amend the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended. These bills are accompanied by letters of transmittal from the executive branch which explain the purpose of the bills.

I ask that the accompanying letters in each case be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately following the listing of the bills introduced.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bills will be received and appropriately referred; and, without objection, the letters accompanying the bills will be printed in the RECORD.

The bills, introduced by Mr. SALTONSTALL, by request, were received and referred to the Committee on Armed Services, as follows:

S. 2780. A bill to authorize certain property transactions in Coccolli, C. Z., and for other purposes.

(The letter accompanying Senate bill 2780 is as follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,

Washington, January 6, 1954.

Hon. RICHARD M. NIXON,
President of the Senate,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: There is forwarded herewith a draft of legislation "To authorize certain property transactions in Coccolli, C. Z., and for other purposes."

This proposal is part of the Department of Defense legislative program for 1954. The responsibility for representing the Department of Defense on this legislation has been delegated to this Department by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The proposed legislation would authorize the Canal Zone Government and the Panama Canal Company, to transfer to the Department of the Navy, without exchange of funds and for occupancy by military and civilian personnel on a rental basis, all, or so much of the facilities, buildings, structures, and improvements of the transferor agencies at or within the town of Coccolli, C. Z., as may be mutually acceptable.

The town of Coccolli, located near the Pacific terminus of the Canal, was formerly maintained and operated as a housing facility of the Panama Canal Company. The improvements to be transferred consist, in large part, of a group of two- and three-story frame structures, most of which are built on concrete stilts, each with a paved area for garage, recreation and laundry facilities. There are 380 one-, two-, and three-bedroom family units contained in 106 buildings and 160 bachelor units contained in four barracks buildings, a commissary, a clubhouse, a fire house, a police station, a telephone exchange, a gasoline station, an elementary school with gymnasium, a post office, maintenance shops, and a warehouse. The improvements were constructed during the period 1941-43 at an original cost of \$1,836,000 and the present value is estimated to be \$1,272,000. In general, the condition of all structures, the power distribution system, roads, and sewers is good, although some exterior and interior painting will be required.

The land upon which these improvements are constructed is a part of the original Canal Zone area which is, in the custody of the Canal Zone Government. Transfer of the land is not provided for in this proposed legislation but will be accomplished after enactment of this proposal by order of the Secretary of the Army issued pursuant to authority delegated by the President in Executive Order 9746.

In view of the very critical need for additional naval housing at the Pacific terminus of the Canal and inasmuch as the facilities described herein are excess to the needs of the Panama Canal Company, that company and the Canal Zone Government, by license effective as of January 1, 1952, have made these facilities available to the Department of the Navy on a temporary basis. It is most desirable that the Department of the Navy obtain permanent custody of this property. The Panama Canal Company and Canal Zone Government have consented to such a transfer without exchange of funds. It is contemplated that the housing will be used by the Department of the Navy to furnish civilians with quarters in accordance with the act of March 5, 1928 (45 Stat. 193, ch. 126; 5 U. S. C. 75a) and for occupancy by service personnel on a rental basis pursuant to the act of July 2, 1945 (59 Stat. 316, ch. 227; 37 U. S. C. 111a).

Inasmuch as the Panama Canal Company, one of the transferor agencies, is subject to the Government Corporation Control Act,

this transfer of property cannot under the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, be made without reimbursement. This proposed legislation is necessary to accomplish the desired transfer in the manner agreed to by the agencies concerned.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that it has no objection to the presentation of this proposal for the consideration of the Congress. The Department of the Navy on behalf of the Department of Defense recommends that the proposal be enacted by the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. SMITH, Jr.,

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air.

S. 2781. A bill to authorize the grant or retrocession to a State of concurrent jurisdiction over certain land.

(The letter accompanying Senate bill 2781 is as follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,

Washington, D. C., January 4, 1954.

Hon. RICHARD M. NIXON,
President of the Senate.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: There is forwarded herewith a draft of legislation, to authorize the grant or retrocession to a State of concurrent jurisdiction over certain land.

This proposal is a part of the Department of Defense legislative program for 1954. The Bureau of the Budget has advised that it has no objection to the presentation of this proposal for the consideration of the Congress. The Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense recommends that it be enacted by the Congress.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the grant or retrocession to a State of concurrent jurisdiction over lands otherwise under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States so as to enable the State to provide for the establishment, maintenance, or control of roads, streets, highways, or other rights-of-way thereon. This authority is needed primarily to avoid problems that arise out of the policing by military personnel of highways that are situated within a military reservation but used extensively by the civilian public as well as by military personnel. It would provide for the retention, at the same time, of appropriate military control over the area.

This proposal would provide for the creation in a State of jurisdiction over land without any relinquishment by the Federal Government of its jurisdiction of title to the land. Any grant or retrocession of jurisdiction pursuant to its terms would take effect only upon the acceptance thereof by the State concerned. The authority to make the grant or retrocession of such jurisdiction would be vested in the heads of departments, independent establishments, or agencies of the Federal Government, including the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force, in much the same manner as such officers are now authorized by section 355 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, to accept or secure from a State consent to or cessation of exclusive or partial jurisdiction.

Problems involving the policing of a highway transverse a military reservation have arisen at a number of military installations. Among such installations are Quantico, Va.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Bragg, N. C.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Breckenridge, Ky.; Fort Devens, Mass.; and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. This proposal would provide a means for alleviating the particular problems that have arisen at such installations as well as similar problems that may arise in the future at these and at other installations.

without the necessity of special legislation by the Congress in each case.

Public Law 522, 81st Congress, provides for the retrocession to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of jurisdiction over a highway transversing Fort Devens. Public Law 318, 82d Congress, provides for the retrocession to the State of North Carolina of jurisdiction over a highway transversing Fort Bragg. Public Law 38, 83d Congress, provides for the retrocession to the Commonwealth of Virginia of jurisdiction over a highway transversing Fort Belvoir. Public Law 41, 83d Congress, provides for the retrocession to the State of Oklahoma of jurisdiction over a highway transversing Fort Sill.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT T. STEVENS,
Secretary of the Army.

S. 2782. A bill to promote the national defense by authorizing the construction of aeronautical research facilities by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics necessary to the effective prosecution of aeronautical research.

(The letter accompanying Senate bill 2782 is as follows:)

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR AERONAUTICS,
Washington, D. C., January 7, 1954.
The Honorable RICHARD M. NIXON,
President of the Senate,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics respectfully submits for your consideration a draft of proposed bill "To promote the national defense by authorizing the construction of aeronautical research facilities by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics necessary to the effective prosecution of aeronautical research."

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to provide legislative authorization for the NACA's 1955 construction program as approved by the Bureau of the Budget for inclusion in the President's Budget for the fiscal year 1955.

The NACA has been authorized by the Bureau of the Budget to submit this proposed legislation to the Congress. It is respectfully requested that it be introduced in the 83d Congress.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. VICTORY,
Executive Secretary.

S. 2783. A bill to repeal section 307 of title III of the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended.

(The letter accompanying S. 2783 is as follows:)

FEDERAL CIVIL
DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D. C., January 13, 1954.
The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: There is enclosed a draft of a proposed bill entitled, "A bill to repeal section 307 of the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended," with the request that it be introduced and considered for enactment at the earliest practicable date.

The purpose of the proposed measure is to provide for the continuation of the President's present authority to deal with a civil defense emergency, subject to termination at any time by concurrent resolution of the Congress. Under section 307 of the Federal Civil Defense Act, as amended (50 U. S. C. App. 2297), such authority would terminate in any event on June 30, 1954.

In approaching the problems of civil defense, the Congress recognized that an attack upon the continental United States with modern weapons of mass destruction would thrust many unprecedented problems of vast magnitude upon our Government. Standby

legislation was needed to assure adequate legal authority to cope with the immediate emergency conditions which would result from such attack. Accordingly, in title III of the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, the Congress armed the executive branch of our Government with the broad standby authority necessary to meet the civil defense requirements of an attack.

Section 301 of such title permits the declaration of a civil defense emergency whenever an attack on the United States has occurred or is anticipated. The same section also authorizes termination of such an emergency by proclamation of the President or by concurrent resolution of the Congress. Since the title III powers can only be exercised under the criteria of section 301, and since they can be terminated whenever appropriate in the manner indicated, there appears to be no need for retention of section 307.

The broad powers contained in title III will be needed in the event of an atomic attack in this country. There will be no time after attack to pass necessary legislation. For civil defense planning purposes at Federal, State, and local level, it is necessary that there be a clear understanding of the legal authority for necessary action. The existence of standby legislation of this type will permit such planning. Civil defense plans and preparations must be maintained at a substantial level of readiness for such period of time as any threat to America exists in the world. It is not a program whose emergency requirements will change as international tensions ease.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that section 307 be repealed.

Advice has been received from the Bureau of the Budget that there would be no objection to the submission of the proposed legislation to the Congress.

Sincerely,

KATHERINE G. HOWARD
(For Val Peterson).

SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

Mr. SPARKMAN. Mr. President, in October of 1953, representatives of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, met in Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of studying the feasibility of setting up a Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

At the end of the 2-day meeting, the conference unanimously agreed to terms and conditions of the proposed compact, and drafted suggested legislation to obtain congressional approval.

On behalf of myself, my colleague, the senior Senator from Alabama [Mr. HILL], the senior Senator from Mississippi [Mr. EASTLAND], the junior Senator from Mississippi [Mr. STENNIS], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBERTSON], the senior Senator from Tennessee [Mr. KEFAUVER], the junior Senator from Tennessee [Mr. GORE], the senior Senator from Kentucky [Mr. CLEMENTS], the junior Senator from Kentucky [Mr. COOPER], the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. NEELY], the Senator from Florida [Mr. HOLLAND], and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. LENNON], I introduce a bill for that purpose.

Mr. President, governors from several of the States have already asked their congressional delegations to initiate action to obtain congressional approval. Only last week, I had a letter from Gov.

Gordon Persons, of Alabama, in which he said:

This legislation is certainly in the public interest and if there is anything we can do toward helping it pass please let me know.

I discussed the matter yesterday with Director Earl McGowin of our conservation department and both of us appreciate your help very much.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD at this point a brief explanation of the proposed compact, and the resolution approved at the conference in Nashville.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be received and appropriately referred; and, without objection, the explanation and resolution will be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (S. 2786) granting the consent and approval of Congress to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, introduced by Mr. SPARKMAN (for himself and other Senators), was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

The explanation and resolution are as follows:

SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The purpose of the compact, set forth in article I, is primarily to promote the "effective prevention and control of forest fires in the southeastern region of the United States." Toward that end the development of integrated forest-fire plans is encouraged. Mutual exchange of fire-fighting services and facilities when needed is authorized and legal barriers to such interchange are removed. Articles IV and V are concerned directly with these mutual-aid features.

Article II sets forth the names of the primary group of member States, stipulates that the compact shall become operative when any two or more contiguous States have ratified it and Congress has given consent; and it makes possible adherence later on of other contiguous States, conditioned upon approval by the legislatures of the member States. It should be noted that this article includes in the primary group of member States Mississippi, Virginia, and West Virginia. The first of these has been included also in the South Central Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. The latter two States have been included also in the Middle Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. Action of the Nashville conference in including these 3 States here was not intended to—and in fact does not—make it incumbent upon these States to ratify this compact rather than the 2 compacts previously mentioned. Nor does it impair the operating validity and effectiveness of this compact if 1 or more of these 3 States prefer to join the other compacts. In actuality there is no legal barrier to a State's being a primary member of two forest fire compacts. The purpose of including these three "bridge" States here is merely to give them the opportunity of becoming primary member States of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact if they so desire.

Article III establishes the operational framework of the compact. The State for-ester of each member State is designated to act as "compact administrator" for that State. This article also declares that there "shall be established an advisory committee," and this committee shall include from each member State a member of the senate and a member of the house of representatives (ordinarily to be designated by the State com-

mission on interstate cooperation), and 2 representatives to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be associated with forestry or with forest products industries. This form of compact organization was selected partly because it would reduce the need for new central staff facilities.

Articles IV and V, as mentioned above, deal with mutual aid aspects of the compact, and provide a basis for settling in advance any questions of liability, compensation, etc., which might arise in the event that one State goes to the assistance of another. These articles, it should be noted, are substantially the same as comparable mutual aid articles in the other regional forest-fire compacts as well as in many interstate civil-defense compacts.

Article VI clarifies the construction of the compact in its application to programs, activities, and other intergovernmental arrangements of the member States. Article VII authorizes the compact administrators to call upon the United States Forest Service for research and program development assistance. Article VIII, which is based on a comparable article in both the South Central and Middle Atlantic Forest Fire Protection Compacts, contemplates and authorizes inter-regional exchange of mutual aid to handle emergency fire situations. Article IX specifies the period during which the compact shall remain in force and the manner in which a State may withdraw from it.

RESOLUTION I

CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT TO THE SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

Whereas representatives of the Southeastern States meeting in Nashville, Tenn., October 27-28, 1953, have drafted a Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact to promote the effective prevention and control of forest fires within the southeastern region, including the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia; and

Whereas preliminary arrangements have been made for appropriate consideration looking toward ratification of the compact by the legislatures of the Southeastern States by the legislatures of the Southeastern States; and

Whereas early consent to the compact by the Congress of the United States will enable provisions of the compact to go into effect expeditiously and the advantages which will accrue from the compact will be more quickly realized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Southeastern States Forest Fire Protection Conference meeting in Nashville, Tenn., October 27-28, 1953, respectfully request the congressional delegations of the Southeastern States to assist in obtaining congressional consent to the terms of the compact.

CONTINUED OPERATION OF LARAMIE ALUMINA PLANT, LARAMIE, WYO.

Mr. HUNT. Mr. President, I introduce for appropriate reference a joint resolution to provide for the continued operation of the Laramie Alumina Plant at Laramie, Wyo., upon the sale of such facility by General Services Administration. I ask unanimous consent that a brief explanation of the joint resolution by me be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The joint resolution will be received and appropriately referred; and, without objection, the explanation will be printed in the RECORD.

The joint resolution (S. J. Res. 120) to provide for the continued operation of the Laramie Alumina Plant at Laramie, Wyo., upon the sale of such facility by the General Services Administration, introduced by Mr. HUNT, was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

The explanation presented by Mr. HUNT is as follows:

STATEMENT BY SENATOR HUNT

I briefly set forth some of the national and local considerations which motivate the introduction of this bill.

The Laramie Alumina Plant was 1 of 4 plants built by the Defense Plant Corporation during World War II when our aluminum production was threatened with disaster. This Nation was critically short of aluminum early in 1941, and during 1942 and 1943 the German submarine campaign was so effective in cutting off our imports of bauxite from the Caribbean, on which the aluminum industry depends for its raw materials, that the Government financed construction of these 4 semi-commercial plants to produce alumina from domestic clays and other ores. Three of the plants—at Salt Lake City, Utah, at Harleyville, South Carolina, and at Salem, Oregon—were sold by the Government after the war at 15, 19, and 6 percent, respectively, of their original cost, and only the latter is being utilized in the production of alumina. The Salt Lake plant is producing fertilizer, and the Harleyville plant is producing cement.

It might be interesting to note here, because it has such bearing on the need for introduction of this bill, that Mr. Oliver C. Ralston of the Bureau of Mines testified in 1947 before the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Senate Public Lands Committee that—

"We were decidedly embarrassed along at the beginning of 1943 when, of the 60 ore boats that were bringing aluminum ore from the north coast of South America to the United States, we reached a point where 52 out of the 60 had been sunk. No one dared to breathe the situation at the time to the people, or, more important to the enemy."

In addition to these 52 sunken bauxite boats—almost the entire fleet—the record shows that 48 or more naval escort vessels were likewise sunk trying to protect the bauxite cargoes.

The Nation still depends upon bauxite imports for approximately 80 percent of the alumina we consume.

There are practically inexhaustible supplies of anorthosite at Laramie, Wyo., and 7 other States have aluminum bearing clays and anorthosite. These are Oregon, South Carolina, California, Minnesota, Arkansas, New York, and Pennsylvania. While these raw materials are lower than bauxite in aluminum content, the Bureau of Mines will soon conclude 2 years of experimental work at Laramie, which is being watched closely by the entire aluminum industry, and which is expected to show that this country can become practically self-sufficient in the production of alumina by fully utilizing our domestic clay deposits.

General Services Administration will proceed to dispose of the Laramie plant when the Bureau of Mines experimental work is concluded in June of this year.

We in Wyoming, and the Government, should not stand idly by and see this plant offered for sale in such a manner that it could be cannibalized by the purchaser and transferred to some other site in some other State to be put to some other use. We experienced this once before in the case of what is known as the sponge iron plant, also at Laramie. This, too, was a defense plant,

and when the experimental work was completed nothing but the burned out shell remained after various Government agencies had taken out equipment they could use.

The Laramie Alumina Plant should remain at Laramie and should be used to produce alumina and to develop our vast natural resources in Wyoming. It offers the basis for a domestic alumina industry which could make us independent of foreign sources of bauxite.

All told, the Federal Government has invested \$30 million in this endeavoring to prove the feasibility of producing alumina from clay at competitive costs with bauxite. Such a costly undertaking should not be charged off as a failure, and the purchaser of the Laramie alumina plant should be required to use that facility for the purpose for which it was constructed, namely, to produce alumina in the interest of the national defense.

This objective was subscribed to by the Senate Appropriations Committee last year when it sent the Interior Department appropriation bill to the Senate. Its report contained the following language:

"The committee has been advised by the Bureau of Mines that it intends to complete its program within the amount allowed and will release the plant to the General Services Administration by the end of the fiscal year 1954.

"It appears that it is to the best interest of the Government that demonstrated costs, quantities, and qualities of alumina to be produced from such plant be obtained at the earliest moment and the committee is convinced that operation by private industry on quantity basis can be had without expense to the Government.

"The committee believes it to be in the public interest that General Services Administration should, as soon as possible, attempt to negotiate either a lease or sales agreement with an industrial operator with such agreement to take effect upon the release of the property by the Bureau of Mines, retaining for the Bureau of Mines if it so desires and at its expense the privilege of—

"1. Observing operations in the plant for a reasonable time without participating but having access to the experimental data and records pertinent to the operations.

"2. Conducting further reasonable research for a reasonable time in the plant in cooperation with the lessee or purchaser provided such activities do not interfere with operations of the industrial operator, which operations shall be the exclusive venture of the operator.

"3. Occupying suitable office space for a reasonable time."

REGISTRATION AND PROTECTION OF CERTAIN TRADE-MARKS—AMENDMENT

Mr. WILEY submitted an amendment in the nature of a substitute, intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 2540) to amend the act entitled "An act to provide for the registration and protection of trade-marks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of international conventions, and for other purposes," approved July 5, 1946, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—AMENDMENT

Mr. HUMPHREY (for himself and Mr. DOUGLAS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them, jointly,

to the bill (S. 2150) providing for creation of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to construct part of the St. Lawrence seaway in United States territory in the interest of national security; authorizing the Corporation to consummate certain arrangements with the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority of Canada relative to construction and operation of the seaway; empowering the Corporation to finance the United States share of the seaway cost on a self-liquidating basis; to establish cooperation with Canada in the control and operation of the St. Lawrence seaway; to authorize negotiations with Canada of an agreement on tolls; and for other purposes, which was ordered to lie on the table and to be printed.

ROBERT A. TAFT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CANCER RESEARCH —REFERENCE OF BILL

Mr. MAGNUSON. Mr. President, on August 1, 1953, just before the end of the first session of the 83d Congress, I introduced the bill (S. 2571) providing for the establishment of the Robert A. Taft Memorial Scholarships for cancer research. Because of the shortness of time, the bill was not referred to a committee, as the leadership and I thought of the possibility of passing the bill without reference to a committee. The bill has been lying on the desk. I now ask unanimous consent that the bill be referred to the appropriate committee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Washington? The Chair hears none, and the bill will be referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session,

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting the nomination of George Holmes Roderick, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army, which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF A COMMITTEE

As in executive session,

The following favorable reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SALTONSTALL, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Frederick A. Seaton, of Nebraska, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense;

Hugh M. Milton II, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army;

Thomas Sovereign Gates, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of the Navy; and

John Slezak, of Illinois, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

REPORT BY SENATOR IVES ON 1953 CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION

Mr. IVES. Mr. President, some of my fellow Senators may recall that late last May, I was excused from sessions of the

Senate for the purpose of serving as head of the United States delegation to the 1953 annual Conference of the International Labor Organization at Geneva, Switzerland. Upon my return in early July, I found the Senate to be immersed in activities aimed at adjournment by the end of the month.

I had expected at that time to make a report to the Senate on my work and experience at the Conference. Because of the situation to which I refer, however, I felt that such a presentation on my part would then be inappropriate, and I decided to delay my report until the convening of the present session of the Congress.

I have prepared a statement on the subject, which may be of interest to those who have been or are active in the field of international relations and to those whose attention has been attracted to the field of labor relations at the international level. Because of the length of the statement, I shall not consume the time of Senators by reading it into the RECORD; accordingly, I ask unanimous consent to have it inserted at this point in my remarks.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REPORT BY SENATOR IVES REGARDING HIS SERVICE AS HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE 1953 CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION AT GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

As many of you undoubtedly know, the International Labor Organization was an adjunct and in a sense a subsidiary of the League of Nations. In like manner it is now affiliated with the United Nations. It was created in 1919 and among those who were most conspicuous and influential in its creation was Samuel Gompers.

The ILO was established to fill a worldwide vacuum, both as an instrumentality in raising standards of living and working conditions throughout the world and, thereby, as a medium for bringing about better industrial and labor relations. I believe I can best describe its purpose by quoting the preamble of its constitution, which reads as follows:

"Whereas universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice; and

"Whereas conditions of labor exist involving such injustice, hardship, and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperiled; and an improvement of those conditions is urgently required: as, for example, by the regulation of the hours of work, including the establishment of a maximum working day and week, the regulation of the labor supply, the prevention of unemployment, the provision of an adequate living wage, the protection of the worker against sickness, disease, and injury arising out of his employment, the protection of children, young persons, and women, provision for old age and injury, protection of the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own, recognition of the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value, recognition of the principle of freedom of association, the organization of vocational and technical education and other measures; and

"Whereas also the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labor is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries;

"The high contracting parties, moved by sentiments of justice and humanity as well as by the desire to secure the permanent

peace of the world, and with a view to attaining the objectives set forth in this preamble, agree to the following constitution of the International Labor Organization."

Without going into unnecessary detail regarding the structure and functioning of the ILO, I would point out that its membership presently consists of 66 nations. Each nation is entitled to 4 delegates to every annual conference—2 delegates representing the government, 1 delegate representing the workers, and 1 delegate representing the employers. At the same time, it has a continuing organizational establishment consisting of a governing body and the secretariat.

The governing body until last year's conference consisted of 16 representatives from governments and 8 representatives each from the employers and workers—a total of 32. The secretariat is headed by a director-general who during the annual conferences acts as secretary-general. Assistant secretaries and other clerical personnel total several hundreds.

In addition to the personnel to whom I have referred, each delegation at the annual conferences includes so-called advisers who are attached to each of the three groups in the delegation. For example, at last year's conference our American advisers totaled approximately 30 and were distributed about equally among our 3 groups. These advisers perform a very important function. They not only advise and counsel with the delegates themselves; they also serve on the standing committees of the conference, where their influence is exceedingly broad and effective. They act, of course, under the instructions of their respective delegates, but without them it would be impossible to conduct the committee activities of the conferences and, in fact, the conferences themselves would become chaotic and futile.

The ILO is in no sense a supergovernment. Although every conference functions as a strictly legislative body, its jurisdiction and authority are limited to the powers granted by the member nations as expressed in the ILO's constitution. Later, in the course of this statement, this condition will become more clear, as I describe phases of the organization's activities and operations.

I am sure that the ILO's importance and potential value to the United States are no more than slightly recognized in this country; at any rate, I myself in the past have had only a vague conception of its function and activities and an even more limited appreciation of its possibilities with respect to ourselves. As I have stated, the basic purpose of the ILO has been to raise the standards of wages, hours, working conditions, and related matters throughout the world. Obviously, because our own standards of this type are already so high, any general improvement in these standards among the other nations is almost certain to affect us advantageously from the standpoint of competition, both in our own and in the world markets. To the extent that this effort has already succeeded, we as a Nation should have been benefited, although, because of the chaotic economic and social conditions occasioned by the last war and by Soviet Russia's subsequent damnable attitude, it is difficult to ascertain exactly where such benefit may have occurred.

SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

MAY 17 (legislative day, MAY 13), 1954.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2786]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2786) granting the consent and approval of Congress to the southeastern interstate forest fire protection compact, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The bill would grant approval of the Congress to a compact by 10 Southeastern States for a cooperative program in preventing and suppressing forest fires. The compact follows the general pattern of the northeastern interstate forest fire protection compact which the Congress approved in 1949.

A copy of the report from the Department of Agriculture explaining the proposed bill and compact is attached hereto as a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C., May 12, 1954.

HON. GEORGE D. AIKEN,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR AIKEN: This is in reply to your request of January 21, 1954, for a report on S. 2786, a bill granting the consent and approval of Congress to the southeastern interstate forest fire protection compact.

This bill would grant approval of Congress to a compact by certain Southeastern States to obtain cooperation in preventing and suppressing forest fires. It would provide for individual State fire plans and an integrated regional fire plan. Compact administrators, one from each State, would guide the compact with the assistance of an advisory committee representing legislators, forestry commissions, and forest industry. A State requesting aid would be required to assume costs for States rendering aid. The bill would provide that the compact shall not affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between any Federal agency and a member State or States. S. 2786 follows the general

2 SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

pattern of the northeastern interstate forest fire protection compact, enacted in 1949 (63 Stat. 271).

The enactment of the bill would not affect the programs of this Department. Neither would it obligate the Department unless it accepted responsibilities under article VII. That article states that the compact administrators may request the Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating agency of the compact and authorizes the Forest Service to present to the compact administrators its recommendations with respect to the regional fire plan. This Department could accept the research and coordinating responsibilities under existing authority and without additional direct Federal expenditures.

The severe drought of the past 2 years in the Southeastern States indicates a need beyond the capacity of a single State when a forest fire disaster strikes. This is a principal reason why the compact is proposed.

Protection of the timber resource from fires is important to the economic and industrial stability of the Southeast. The 10 States comprising the proposed compact area contain more than 98 billion cubic feet of standing timber, or 21 percent of the standing timber in the United States. The area produces about half of the Nation's pulpwood and about one-third of its lumber.

This Department believes that the interstate compact proposed in S. 2786 would be helpful in attaining greater protection against forest fires in the member States and, therefore, recommends enactment of the bill.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that from the standpoint of the program of the President there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

E. T. BENSON, *Secretary.*



Calendar No. 1375

83D CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2786

[Report No. 1372]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 20 (legislative day, JANUARY 7), 1954

Mr. SPARKMAN (for himself, Mr. HILL, Mr. EASTLAND, Mr. STENNIS, Mr. ROBERTSON, Mr. KEFAUVER, Mr. GORE, Mr. CLEMENTS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. NEELY, Mr. HOLLAND, and Mr. LENNON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

MAY 17 (legislative day, MAY 13), 1954

Reported by Mr. EASTLAND, without amendment

A BILL

Granting the consent and approval of Congress to the
Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given
4 to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Com-
5 pact, as hereinafter set out. Such compact reads as follows:

6 SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE

7 PROTECTION COMPACT

8 ARTICLE I.

9 The purpose of this compact is to promote effective pre-
10 vention and control of forest fires in the Southeastern region

1 of the United States by the development of integrated forest
2 fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting
3 services by the member states, by providing for mutual aid
4 in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the
5 region and with states which are party to other Regional
6 Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for
7 more adequate forest protection.

8 ARTICLE II.

9 This compact shall become operative immediately as to
10 those states ratifying it whenever any two or more of the
11 states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi,
12 North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and
13 West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and
14 Congress has given consent thereto. Any state not men-
15 tioned in this article which is contiguous with any member
16 state may become a party to this compact, subject to
17 approval by the legislature of each of the member states.

18 ARTICLE III.

19 In each state, the state forester or officer holding the
20 equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control
21 shall act as compact administrator for that state and shall consult
22 with like officials of the other member states and shall im-
23 plement cooperation between such states in forest fire preven-
24 tion and control,

1 The compact administrators of the member states shall
2 coordinate the services of the member states and provide
3 administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of
4 this compact.

5 There shall be established an advisory committee of leg-
6 islators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry
7 or forest products industries representatives which shall meet
8 from time to time with the compact administrators. Each
9 member state shall name one member of the Senate and one
10 member of the House of Representatives who shall be desig-
11 nated by that state's commission on interstate cooperation,
12 or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate the
13 said members, they shall be designated in accordance with
14 laws of that state; and the Governor of each member state
15 shall appoint two representatives, one of whom shall be asso-
16 ciated with forestry or forest products industries to comprise
17 the membership of the advisory committee. Action shall be
18 taken by a majority of the compacting states, and each state
19 shall be entitled to one vote.

20 The compact administrators shall formulate and, in ac-
21 cordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional
22 forest fire plan for the member states.

23 It shall be the duty of each member state to formulate
24 and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state and take

1 such measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest
2 fire plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the
3 compact administrators.

4 ARTICLE IV.

5 Whenever the state forest fire control agency of a
6 member state requests aid from the state forest fire con-
7 trol agency of any other member state in combating, con-
8 trolling or preventing forest fires, it shall be the duty
9 of the state forest fire control agency of that state to render
10 all possible aid to the requesting agency which is consonant
11 with the maintenance of protection at home.

12 ARTICLE V.

13 Whenever the forces of any member state are render-
14 ing outside aid pursuant to the request of another mem-
15 ber state under this compact, the employees of such state
16 shall, under the direction of the officers of the state to
17 which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (ex-
18 cept the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges and
19 immunities as comparable employees of the state to which
20 they are rendering aid.

21 No member state or its officers or employees rendering
22 outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on
23 account of any act or omission on the part of such forces
24 while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance, or
25 use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith;

1 Provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as relieving
2 any person from liability for his own negligent act or omis-
3 sion, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omis-
4 sion upon any state.

5 All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter,
6 that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state
7 or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of
8 a third state on account of or in connection with a re-
9 quest for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting
10 state.

11 Any member state rendering outside aid pursuant to
12 this compact shall be reimbursed by the member state re-
13 ceiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense in-
14 curred in the operation of any equipment answering a re-
15 quest for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transporta-
16 tion, wages, salaries, and subsistence of employees and
17 maintenance of equipment incurred in connection with such
18 request: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall pre-
19 vent any assisting member state from assuming such loss,
20 damage, expense or other cost or from loaning such equip-
21 ment or from donating such service to the receiving member
22 state without charge or cost.

23 Each member state shall provide for the payment of
24 compensation and death benefits to injured employees and

1 the representatives of deceased employees in case employees
2 sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid pur-
3 suant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same
4 terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such
5 state.

6 For the purposes of this compact the term employee shall
7 include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within
8 the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under the
9 laws thereof.

10 The compact administrators shall formulate procedures
11 for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this
12 article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

13 ARTICLE VI.

14 Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to
15 affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit cur-
16 tailment or diminution of the forest fire fighting forces, equip-
17 ment, services or facilities of any member state.

18 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or
19 restrict the powers of any state ratifying the same to provide
20 for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires,
21 or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws,
22 rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, con-
23 trol and extinguishment in such state.

1 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any
2 existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement
3 between any federal agency and a member state or states.

4 ARTICLE VII.

5 The compact administrators may request the United
6 States Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating
7 agency of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection
8 Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in
9 each state, and the United States Forest Service may accept
10 responsibility for preparing and presenting to the compact
11 administrators its recommendations with respect to the re-
12 gional fire plan. Representatives of any federal agency en-
13 gaged in forest fire prevention and control may attend
14 meetings of the compact administrators.

15 ARTICLE VIII.

16 The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact
17 which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or pre-
18 venting forest fires shall be operative as between any state
19 party to this compact and any other state which is party to
20 a regional forest fire protection compact in another region:
21 Provided, that the legislature of such other state shall have
22 given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this
23 compact.

ARTICLE IX.

2 This compact shall continue in force and remain binding
3 on each state ratifying it until the legislature or the Governor
4 of such state, as the laws of such state shall provide, takes
5 action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be
6 effective until six months after notice thereof has been sent
7 by the chief executive of the state desiring to withdraw to the
8 chief executives of all states then parties to the compact.

9 SEC. 2. Without further submission of the compact, the
10 consent of Congress is given to any State to become a party
11 to it in accordance with its terms.

12 SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is
13 expressly reserved.

A BILL

Granting the consent and approval of Congress
to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire
Protection Compact.

By Mr. SPARKMAN, Mr. HULL, Mr. EASTLAND,
Mr. STENNIS, Mr. ROBERTSON, Mr. KEFAUVER,
Mr. GORE, Mr. CLEMENTS, Mr. COOPER, Mr.
NEELY, Mr. HOLLAND, and Mr. LENNON

JANUARY 20 (legislative day, JANUARY 7), 1954
Read twice and referred to the Committee on
Agriculture and Forestry
MAY 17 (legislative day, MAY 13), 1954
Reported without amendment

Digest of CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS

OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
(For Department Staff Only)

Issued May 25, 1954
For actions of May 24, 1954
83rd-2nd, No. 95

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HIGHLIGHTS: Senate passed water-facilities loans bill. Senate passed bill approving Southeastern Forest-Fire Protection Compact. House subcommittee voted to report surplus-fish bill. Sen. Carlson introduced and discussed bill to provide life insurance for Government employees. Sen. Johnston introduced and discussed bill to require Federal agencies to obey State laws on butter-fat content.

SENATE

- 1. WATER-FACILITIES LOANS.** Passed as reported S. 3137, to amend the Water Facilities Act (pp. 6616-19). Sen. Aiken explained the bill as follows:
"The Water Facilities Act now is applicable only to the arid and semiarid areas of the United States. The pending bill would make that act applicable to the entire United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands."
"At present Government financial assistance is limited to \$100,000 for any one project. The bill would replace that limitation with a limitation upon the amount of indebtedness which any one debtor may have outstanding at any one time. In the case of an individual, the limitation would be \$25,000; in the case of a corporation or agency, it would be \$250,000..."
"...the committee amendment provides for insurance of private loans. At present, the Secretary of Agriculture makes only direct loans, using the funds appropriated for that purpose. Under the amendment, not to exceed \$25 million of loans could be insured in any one year. In insuring the loans, the Secretary would utilize the fund created by title I of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act!"
- 2. FORESTRY.** Passed without amendment S. 2786, approving the Southeastern Interstate Forest-Fire Protection Compact (pp. 6619-20).
- 3. PUBLIC LANDS.** Passed as reported H. R. 2512, to amend the Small Tracts Act so as to permit greater use of the public domain by individuals (pp. 6626-7).
- 4. HOLIDAY.** Passed without amendment H. R. 7786, to change the name of Armistice Day to "Veterans' Day" (p. 6616). This bill will now be sent to the President.
- 5. EGG MARKETING.** Passed as reported S. 2661, to regulate the sale of shell eggs in D. C. (p. 6625).

6. HOUSING. The Banking and Currency Committee announced that it will order reported H. R. 7839, the housing bill, on May 27, and will file a report on June 3 (p. D574). This bill includes a provision continuing the rural-housing loan program.
7. FLOOD-CONTROL APPROPRIATIONS. H. R. 8367, the Army civil functions appropriation bill, was made the unfinished business (p. 6633).
8. SOIL CONSERVATION. In reporting H. R. 6788 (the Hope-Aiken watershed bill) to the full Agriculture and Forestry Committee, the subcommittee recommended a number of amendments. File copies of a "committee print", showing these amendments, are available for lending purposes from the Legislative Reporting Staff, Ext. 4654.

HOUSE

9. FISHERY PRODUCTS. A subcommittee voted to report to the full Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee S. 2802, to earmark part of Sec. 32 funds for publicity, education, and research on fish and related products (p. D576).

BILLS INTRODUCED

10. LIVESTOCK INSPECTION. S. 3504, by Sen. Bowring, to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act with respect to the charging of brand inspection fees; to Agriculture and Forestry Committee (p. 6605).
11. RECLAMATION. S. 3505, by Sen. Anderson, to amend the act of 1950 relating to construction of the Vermejo reclamation project; to Interior and Insular Affairs Committee (p. 6605).
12. PERSONNEL. S. 3507, by Sen. Carlson, to authorize the Civil Service Commission to make available group life insurance for Federal employees; to Post Office and Civil Service Committee (p. 6605). Remarks of author (p. 6605).
13. DAIRY INDUSTRY. S. 3508, by Sen. Johnston, to require milk utilized by Federal agencies to meet State requirements with respect to butterfat content; to Agriculture and Forestry Committee (p. 6605). Remarks of author (p. 6634).
14. FISHERY PRODUCTS. H. R. 9249, by Rep. Norblad, "to further encourage the distribution of fishery products"; to Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee (p. 6648).

ITEMS IN APPENDIX

15. FARM LABOR. Extension of remarks of Rep. Gubser discussing the use of Mexican farm laborers, stating that local labor will be given first chance at any job they are willing and able to perform, and including a newspaper article stating the need for 500 strawberry pickers in Calif. (p. A3774).
16. RECLAMATION. Extension of remarks of Rep. Miller, Nebr., favoring H. R. 4449, authorizing the upper Colo. project (pp. A3775-6).
Extension of remarks of Rep. Engle favoring the Trinity River project, Calif., and including a newspaper article on the shortage of water in the San Joaquin Valley (p. A3788).
17. FLOOD CONTROL. Rep. Angell inserted a newspaper article discussing the Army flood-control plan for the Columbia River (pp. A3776-7).

ability of underground water in many of the States and the humid area. I want to insert this table in the RECORD:

	Percent
Mississippi.....	98
Wisconsin.....	98
Florida.....	95
Michigan.....	95
New Jersey.....	90
Alabama.....	85
Louisiana.....	80
Nebraska.....	80
Missouri.....	70
Georgia.....	70
Arkansas.....	65
South Carolina.....	65
North Carolina.....	65
Iowa.....	60
Tennessee.....	60
Minnesota.....	50
Illinois.....	50
Texas.....	50
Kansas.....	50
Virginia.....	50
Indiana.....	45
Ohio.....	45
Washington.....	45

It will be noted from the above table that 98 percent of the entire area of the State of Mississippi has underground water available for irrigation purposes. Much of the water available is artesian water. None of the water available is so deep that it cannot be economically pumped and made available at a price which will justify its use.

In limited areas where water may not be available ponds can be constructed. These ponds can likewise be financed under the plan. As I predicted before, the day the Senate passes this bill will inaugurate one of the most far-reaching developments that American agriculture has yet made. Supplemental irrigation is coming, and coming fast, to the humid areas of the United States.

SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST-FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

The bill (S. 2786) granting the consent and approval of Congress to the Southeastern Interstate Forest-Fire Protection Compact was announced as next in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, the pending bill relates to an interstate compact proposed for and by the 10 Southeastern States at a regional Forestry Conference. The proposed compact is subject to approval by Congress. It includes a provision that any other State adjoining a compact State may become a member of the compact. The compact will provide for cooperation among the States in the prevention and suppression of forest fires. Without discussing the subject at length, I ask unanimous consent that the report of the committee be made a part of my remarks at this time.

There being no objection, the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry (No. 1372) was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2786) granting the consent and approval of Congress to the southeastern interstate forest fire protection compact, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The bill would grant approval of the Congress to a compact by 10 Southeastern States for a cooperative program in preventing and suppressing forest fires. The compact follows the general pattern of the northeastern interstate forest fire protection compact which the Congress approved in 1949.

A copy of the report from the Department of Agriculture explaining the proposed bill and compact is attached hereto as a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C., May 12, 1954.

Hon. GEORGE D. AIKEN,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
and Forestry, United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR AIKEN: This is in reply to your request of January 21, 1954, for a report on S. 2786, a bill granting the consent and approval of Congress to the southeastern interstate forest fire protection compact.

This bill would grant approval of Congress to a compact by certain Southeastern States to obtain cooperation in preventing and suppressing forest fires. It would provide for individual State fire plans and an integrated regional fire plan. Compact administrators, one from each State, would guide the compact with the assistance of an advisory committee representing legislators, forestry commissions, and forest industry. A State requesting aid would be required to assume costs for States rendering aid. The bill would provide that the compact shall not affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between any Federal agency and a member State or States. S. 2786 follows the general pattern of the northeastern interstate forest fire protection compact, enacted in 1949 (63 Stat. 271).

The enactment of the bill would not affect the programs of this Department. Neither would it obligate the Department unless it accepted responsibilities under article VII. That article states that the compact administrators may request the Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating agency of the compact and authorizes the Forest Service to present to the compact administrators its recommendations with respect to the regional fire plan. This Department could accept the research and coordinating responsibilities under existing authority and without additional direct Federal expenditures.

The severe drought of the past 2 years in the Southeastern States indicates a need beyond the capacity of a single State when a forest fire disaster strikes. This is a principal reason why the compact is proposed.

Protection of the timber resource from fires is important to the economic and industrial stability of the Southeast. The 10 States comprising the proposed compact area contain more than 98 billion cubic feet of standing timber, or 21 percent of the standing timber of the United States. The area produces about half of the Nation's pulpwood and about one-third of its lumber.

This Department believes that the interstate compact proposed in S. 2786 would be helpful in attaining greater protection against forest fires in the member States and, therefore, recommends enactment of the bill.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that from the standpoint of the program of the President there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

E. T. BENSON, Secretary.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, I hope the bill will be passed and the consent of Congress thereby given to the proposed compact.

Mr. STENNIS. Mr. President, will the Senator from Florida yield for a question?

Mr. HOLLAND. I yield.

Mr. STENNIS. The Senator from Florida has stated that the bill refers to a compact which has already been negotiated and is subject to confirmation by Congress.

Mr. HOLLAND. The Senator is correct.

Mr. STENNIS. I further understand that the bill is in the interest of forest-fire protection. I ask the Senator, as a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to make an explanatory statement of the bill for the RECORD and for the information of the Senate. I should like to have the Senator cover the high points of the bill and to say something with respect to the problem and the progress that is being made in solving it, if he is prepared to do so at this time.

Mr. HOLLAND. I shall be very glad to do so.

The bill would give sanction and standing, through congressional approval to the compact as already negotiated among the 10 southeastern States. The purpose of the compact is to enable the 10 southeastern States to join forces in the prevention and fighting of forest fires. Forest fires have no respect for State lines.

In addition, no individual State can have sufficient equipment or personnel to deal with a major outbreak. The compact would make available, in fighting a serious conflagration all the equipment possessed by the neighboring compact States. The compact would make it possible for adjoining States to focus their equipment, and their personnel, and their knowhow upon any serious problem that may arise in the field of forest-fire outbreaks in all those States. We believe that to be the commonsense method of combating this problem.

Incidentally, we are indebted to the Northeastern States for the program they worked out, which was previously approved by Congress some years ago, and which has proved to be successful. We are simply following in the path which has proven to be very beneficial to the participating States that have already joined together in the northeastern forest-fire-fighting compact.

Mr. STENNIS. That is one of the points which I was interested in having the RECORD show, namely, that the compact under consideration is patterned on the experience obtained in the Northeastern States, which have been very effectively working together, as the Senator from Mississippi understands.

Mr. HOLLAND. The Senator is correct. The Senator from Florida notes that the distinguished junior Senator from Alabama [Mr. SPARKMAN] has entered the Senate Chamber. Since he was the leading sponsor of the measure, the Senator from Florida invites him to participate in the discussion, if he wishes to do so.

Mr. AIKEN. Mr. President, will the Senator from Florida yield?

Mr. HOLLAND. I yield.

Mr. AIKEN. I merely wish to say that in putting forward this proposed legislation, the Senators from the Southeastern States are performing a great

service for their communities and their States.

As has been mentioned, the seven Northeastern States were given authority to join together in fighting forest fires, and also to join with the neighboring provinces in Canada, although the latter development has not materialized as yet because of the red tape that must first be unwound before such a compact can be brought into being.

The compact in the Northeastern States has worked wonderfully well, and I believe it has reduced damage from forest fires to what we might call a bare minimum.

Mr. HOLLAND. I thank the Senator. The report of the Secretary of Agriculture shows that the 10 States which have proposed the pending compact have within the boundaries of the compact area more than 98 billion cubic feet of standing timber, or 21 percent of the standing timber in the United States, and that the area produces about one-half of the Nation's pulpwood and about one-third of its lumber supply.

Mr. STENNIS. Mr. President, will the Senator yield further?

Mr. HOLLAND. I yield.

Mr. STENNIS. I wish to point out that this vast timber-growing area of the Southeast is one of the great assets of the Nation. The production of pulpwood is a comparatively new industry in that area, as is the production of poles and saw logs and piling, and so forth, and it is absolutely essential that everything possible be done to give that great area fire protection.

Although we are fortunate to have oil and gas in some areas of the Southeast, I have said many times that long after that oil and gas are gone the pine trees and the regrown forests will be furnishing a livelihood for hundreds of thousands of our people. I commend the Senator from Florida and the Senator from Alabama for their interest and work in connection with this matter.

Mr. SPARKMAN. Mr. President, will the Senator from Florida yield?

Mr. HOLLAND. I shall be glad to yield.

Mr. SPARKMAN. I merely wanted to add a brief comment, which is prompted by something the Senator from Mississippi stated in speaking about the advancement in the production of pulpwood in that area. Only a few days ago I received a letter from the man in charge of operations of one of the paper mills in our section of the country, the River Newsprint Co. In the course of the letter he told me how much money that mill had spent in the area from which it buys pulpwood. He told me how many mills it has in various counties there, although I have forgotten how many counties he mentioned. He made a very significant statement, to which I particularly invite the attention of the Senator from Mississippi. He told me that the amount of money which that one mill had spent for pulpwood in that area—and it is a large area—had during the several years of the operations exceeded the value of the cotton mill in the same counties.

Mr. STENNIS. I am not surprised. It is very interesting to hear the Senator make that statement.

Mr. HOLLAND. Mr. President, in closing I should like to make this further statement: In addition to producing about one-half of the Nation's pulpwood and about one-third of its lumber, the area which is affected by the compact produces almost all of the supply of naval stores of the Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, as hereinafter set out. Such compact reads as follows:

"SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT"

"ARTICLE I

"The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the southeastern region of the United States by the development of integrated forest fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest-fire fighting services by the member States, by providing for mutual aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting States of the region and with States which are party to other regional forest-fire protection compacts or agreements, and for more adequate forest protection.

"ARTICLE II

"This compact shall become operative immediately as to those States ratifying it whenever any two or more of the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and Congress has given consent thereto. Any State not mentioned in this article which is contiguous with any member State may become a party to this compact, subject to approval by the legislature of each of the member States.

"ARTICLE III

"In each State, the State forester or officer holding the equivalent position who is responsible for forest-fire control shall act as compact administrator for that State and shall consult with like officials of the other member States and shall implement cooperation between such States in forest-fire prevention and control.

"The compact administrators of the member States shall coordinate the services of the member States and provide administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of this compact.

"There shall be established an advisory committee of legislators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry or forest products industries representatives which shall meet from time to time with the compact administrators. Each member State shall name one member of the Senate and one member of the House of Representatives who shall be designated by that State's commission on interstate cooperation, or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate the said members, they shall be designated in accordance with laws of that State; and the governor of each member State shall appoint 2 representatives, 1 of whom shall be associated with forestry or forest products industries to comprise the membership of the advisory committee. Action shall be taken by a majority of the compacting States, and each State shall be entitled to one vote.

"The compact administrators shall formulate and, in accordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional forest-fire plan for the member States.

"It shall be the duty of each member State to formulate and put in effect a forest-fire plan for that State, and take such measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest-fire plan with the regional forest-fire plan formulated by the compact administrators.

"ARTICLE IV

"Whenever the State forest fire control agency of a member State requests aid from the State forest fire control agency of any other member State in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires, it shall be the duty of the State forest fire control agency of that State to render all possible aid to the requesting agency which is consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.

"ARTICLE V

"Whenever the forces of any member State are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of another member State under this compact, the employees of such State shall, under the direction of the officers of the State to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as comparable employees of the State to which they are rendering aid.

"No member State or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance, or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall be construed as relieving any person from liability for his own negligent act or omission, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omission upon any State.

"All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter, that may arise either under the laws of the requesting State or under the laws of the aiding State or under the laws of a third State on account of or in connection with a request for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting State.

"Any member State rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the member State receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries, and subsistence of employees and maintenance of equipment incurred in connection with such request: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall prevent any assisting member State from assuming such loss, damage, expense, or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from donating such service to the receiving member State without charge or cost.

"Each member State shall provide for the payment of compensation and death benefits to injured employees and the representatives of deceased employees in case employees sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such State.

"For the purposes of this compact the term "employee" shall include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within the forest fire-fighting forces of the aiding State under the laws thereof.

"The compact administrators shall formulate procedures for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this article, in accordance with the laws of the member States.

"ARTICLE VI

"Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit curtailment or diminution of the forest fire-fighting forces, equipment, services, or facilities of any member State.

"Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or restrict the powers of any State ratifying the same to provide for the

prevention, control, and extinguishment of forest fires, or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of State laws, rules, or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, control, and extinguishment in such State.

"Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between any Federal agency and a member State or States.

"ARTICLE VII

"The compact administrators may request the United States Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating agency of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in each State, and the United States Forest Service may accept responsibility for preparing and presenting to the compact administrators its recommendations with respect to the regional fire plan. Representatives of any Federal agency engaged in forest fire prevention and control may attend meetings of the compact administrators.

"ARTICLE VIII

"The provisions of articles IV and V of this compact which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires shall be operative as between any State party to this compact and any other State which is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region: *Provided*, That the legislature of such other State shall have given its assent to such mutual-aid provisions of this compact.

"ARTICLE IX

"This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each State ratifying it until the legislature or the Governor of such State, as the laws of such State shall provide, takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be effective until 6 months after notice thereof has been sent by the chief executive of the State desiring to withdraw to the chief executives of all States then parties to the compact."

SEC. 2. Without further submission of the compact, the consent of Congress is given to any State to become a party to it in accordance with its terms.

SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this act is expressly reserved.

APPOINTMENT OF COL. LELAND HAZELTON HEWITT TO INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

The bill (H. R. 9004) to authorize the appointment as United States Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, of Col. Leland Hazelton Hewitt, United States Army, and for other purposes, was announced as next in order.

Mr. GORE. Over.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. President, will the distinguished Senator from Tennessee permit me to say a word about the bill before it is passed over?

Mr. GORE. I withhold my objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. President, this matter came up on the last call of the calendar as Calendar No. 1334, S. 3457 to authorize the appointment as United States Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission of the United States and Mexico, of Col. Leland Hazelton Hewitt, United States Army, retired, and for other purposes.

The bill went over because certain questions were asked and remained unanswered. I am prepared to answer

those questions, and I should like to answer them for the record, if I may, and then I shall ask if the distinguished Senator from Tennessee will consider having the Senate pass the measure today.

I may say, incidentally, that subsequent to the Senate consideration of the Senate bill on the last call of the calendar the House passed the measure now before the Senate, H. R. 9004, Calendar No. 1376, which is identical with the bill we previously had before us, S. 3457.

Mr. President. I should like to state that the bill authorizes the appointment of Col. Leland Hazelton Hewitt, United States Army, retired, as United States Commissioner on the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico.

Special authorization is required because of the provisions of the act of July 31, 1894, which bar retired officers of the armed services with retired pay of more than \$2,500 from other public offices to which compensation is attached. The pending bill will exempt Colonel Hewitt from this limitation and permit him to accept the salary of United States Commissioner in lieu of his retired pay, without prejudice to his rights as a retired officer. According to the Defense Department, this will cause no apparent increase in the budgetary requirements for the Defense Department.

The question was very properly raised, when the matter came before us, as to the salary which Colonel Hewitt would receive as United States Commissioner. The answer to that question is that he will receive approximately what his predecessor received, namely, \$14,300 per annum.

The second question was: "Will he at the same time draw retirement pay?"

The answer to that question is that he will not at the same time draw retirement pay.

The third question was: "After he serves on the Commission without retirement pay and his services with the Commission terminate, will he revert to his previous status and draw retirement pay?"

The answer to that question is in the affirmative.

The fourth question was: "What percentage of the United States Commissioner's time will be required?"

The answer to that question is that the position of United States Commissioner is very much a full-time job.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, consists of a United States Commissioner and a Mexican Commissioner, and can act only when both Commissioners are present. The treaty of 1944 with Mexico requires that each be an engineer and work under the policy direction respectively of the Department of State and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations. Functioning as an international body, the Commission is charged by numerous treaties and national laws with the conduct of a positive program of cooperative action between Mexico and the United States for solution of boundary problems of an engineering nature. These problems include equitable division of the inter-

national waters of the Rio Grande, conservation and storage of these and other international waters, construction and operation of international dams, alleviation of sanitation hazards, and stabilization of the river boundary. These responsibilities are of great importance in our relations with Mexico and particularly to the Americans living along the 1,900-mile boundary to the south.

The committee considered the matter very seriously before it submitted its report. We feel that Colonel Hewitt is unusually qualified for the position to which the President desires to appoint him. He has received West Point training and was also educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He would bring a unique knowledge and experience to the Commission. The committee, therefore, unanimously urged the Senate to give its approval to the bill enabling the President of the United States to appoint Colonel Hewitt as Commissioner.

I shall be glad to answer any questions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee has objected to the consideration of the bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. President, does the Senator still wish to object to the passage of the bill?

Mr. GORE. Mr. President, it is by request that I ask that the bill go over, without prejudice. I personally have no objection to the bill. It is at the request of other Senators that I must ask that the bill be passed over.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be passed over.

ISSUANCE OF PATENT IN FEE TO JESSE BELL

The bill (H. R. 1705) authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to secure a patent in fee to Jesse Bell was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION

The joint resolution (S. J. Res. 156) providing for acceptance by the United States of America of an instrument for the amendment of the constitution of the International Labor Organization was announced as next in order.

Mr. HENDRICKSON. Mr. President, this is a very important measure. I wonder if we may have a thorough explanation of it.

Mr. IVES. Mr. President, the pending joint resolution in a sense speaks for itself. It would authorize the President to accept on behalf of the United States the instrument for the amendment of the constitution of the International Labor Organization—otherwise known as the ILO—which was adopted at Geneva on June 25, 1953, by the International Labor Conference at its 36th session.

By this constitutional change the governing body of the ILO would be increased from 32 to 40 persons, of whom the Government representatives would be increased from 16 to 20 and the em-

ployer and worker representatives would be increased from 8 to 10 each. At the same time an obsolete provision requiring that of the present 16 Government members 6 shall be from non-European states would be eliminated.

The ILO now has a membership of 69 states. Each member state is entitled to be represented at the conference by 4 delegates—2 representing the Government, 1 representing the employers, and 1 representing the workers.

Constitutional amendment is obtained through the approval of two-thirds of the member delegates voting in the conference, followed by ratification or acceptance by two-thirds of the member states themselves. In addition it is required that at least 5 out of the 8 states of so-called chief industrial importance, which are automatically represented on the governing body, shall be included among those ratifying or accepting constitutional amendments.

The 8 states of chief industrial importance are designated by the governing body and under the proposed constitutional change would be increased to 10.

One of the chief purposes in thus mandating this increase is to permit Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany—as states of chief industrial importance—automatically to become members of the governing body. At the same time, by this increase two additional smaller states also would be represented on the governing body.

These amendments received unanimous approval at the 1953 conference when they were adopted by a vote of 189 to 0, with 2 abstentions. In this connection it is especially interesting to note that these proposed constitutional changes were supported most vigorously by the smaller states, especially by our Latin American friends.

It is important that this joint resolution receive earliest possible favorable consideration by the Congress. The next conference of the ILO convenes next month and it is most desirable that these provisions receive the approval of the United States Government prior to that time.

Since I introduced this resolution, I have been informed that two-thirds of the members states, including the fifth state of chief industrial importance, as required by the Constitution, have ratified or accepted these amendments, thereby putting them into effect.

The urgency, therefore, becomes a matter of demonstrating to the member states the continued interest of the United States in the ILO. For all of these reasons, Mr. President, I urge approval of the pending joint resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. President, I should like to add to what the distinguished Senator from New York has said, that a full meeting of the committee was held, the distinguished Senator from New York appeared before us, and was questioned very closely on the matter, because it involves an international relationship.

The Senator gave us all the facts, and we voted unanimously to recommend that the joint resolution be passed.

I might point out one thing, Mr. President, which I do not think the Senator

mentioned, namely, that Brazil, which we are trying to keep on the governing body, is the only Latin American country represented on the governing body as a chief industrial state.

Mr. IVES. Mr. President, will the Senator from New Jersey yield?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield.

Mr. IVES. The reason why I did not mention that, Mr. President, is because with Soviet Russia returning to the ILO there is some question as to what state will have to be dropped. When the change was made, Soviet Russia was not a member of the ILO and its return was not contemplated.

I do not think it is definitely known which nation will be affected.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the Senator.

This joint resolution was taken up with the State and Labor Departments and has the full approval of both departments.

Mr. GORE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the senior Senator from New Jersey has just stated that the matter involves a very important international agreement, partaking almost of the nature of a treaty. That raises a question in my mind as to whether the joint resolution should pass on the Consent Calendar. The joint resolution would authorize the President to enter into such an agreement, thereby giving the agreement a standing even above that of an executive agreement. From the able explanation by the distinguished senior Senator from New York, the proposal appears to be entirely worthy; but there is a question in my mind whether it should pass on the Consent Calendar.

Mr. IVES. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. GORE. I yield.

Mr. IVES. While that might be definitely true in connection with treaties, which I do not believe should be ratified on the Consent Calendar, I know of no objection in the world to this proposal. None whatsoever has ever been raised. As a matter of fact, what is proposed to be accomplished by the joint resolution is already in effect, as I have previously stated. From my viewpoint, because of the action of the other members of the International Labor Organization, I think it is important that the United States speed action on its part, because the ILO will be convening for its next conference within a couple of weeks, and if the Senate does not act promptly, it will be difficult to have the measure acted upon by the House in time.

There is no objection whatsoever to the proposal. It merely provides a numerical increase in the governing body, and nothing more.

Mr. GORE. Can the distinguished Senator from New York give assurance that no action will follow the passage of the bill other than an increase in the governing body of the International Labor Organization?

Mr. IVES. And also it eliminates the obsolete matter, to which I referred, and which does not belong in the constitution of the ILO. That action was taken on an amendment suggested by me in Europe last summer.

Mr. GORE. The Senator from New York recognizes, does he not, the inadvisability of passing such a measure as this on the Consent Calendar?

Mr. IVES. I most certainly do; and, if time were not so much of the essence as it is at present, I would agree with the distinguished Senator from Tennessee that the proposal should not be acted on in this way. But since there is no objection to it, I think the Senate should expedite its passage.

Mr. GORE. With that assurance from the Senator from New York, I shall withdraw my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution (S. J. Res. 156) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Whereas the United States of America is a member of the International Labor Organization; and

Whereas the International Labor Conference, considering the desirability of increasing the size of the governing body of the International Labor Office to take account of increases in the membership of the organization, adopted for this purpose at Geneva on June 25, 1953, at its 36th session an instrument for the amendment of the constitution of the International Labor Organization; and

Whereas the delegation of the United States of America to the 36th session of the International Labor Conference unanimously supported the aforesaid instrument of amendment, which was approved by 189 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions; Therefore, be it

Resolved, etc., That the President is hereby authorized to accept on behalf of the United States of America the instrument for the amendment of the constitution of the International Labor Organization adopted at Geneva on June 25, 1953, by the International Labor Conference at its 36th session.

The preamble was agreed to.

SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The bill (S. 2654) to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to sell certain property owned by the District of Columbia, located in Montgomery County, Md., and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized and empowered, in their discretion, for the best interests of the District of Columbia, to sell and convey, in whole or in part, to the highest bidder at public or advertised sale, real estate now owned in fee simple by the District of Columbia consisting of approximately seventeen and seventeen one-hundredths acres of land located in Montgomery County, in the State of Maryland, and described in two certain deeds, namely, (1) a deed made November 7, 1898, from Damaris A. Seilman and Frederick O. Seilman to the District of Columbia, recorded on November 21, 1898, in liber T. D. numbered 6, folio 238, one of the land records of Montgomery County, Md., and (2) a deed made April 1, 1899, from Damaris A. Seilman and Frederick O. Seilman to the District of Columbia, recorded April 12, 1899, in liber T. D. numbered 8, folio 141, one of

83^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2786

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 1954

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT

Granting the consent and approval of Congress to the
Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given
4 to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Com-
5 pact, as hereinafter set out. Such compact reads as follows:

6 SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE
7 PROTECTION COMPACT

8 ARTICLE I.

9 The purpose of this compact is to promote effective pre-
10 vention and control of forest fires in the Southeastern region

1 of the United States by the development of integrated forest
2 fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting
3 services by the member states, by providing for mutual aid
4 in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the
5 region and with states which are party to other Regional
6 Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for
7 more adequate forest protection.

8 ARTICLE II.

9 This compact shall become operative immediately as to
10 those states ratifying it whenever any two or more of the
11 states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi,
12 North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and
13 West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and
14 Congress has given consent thereto. Any state not men-
15 tioned in this article which is contiguous with any member
16 state may become a party to this compact, subject to
17 approval by the legislature of each of the member states.

18 ARTICLE III.

19 In each state, the state forester or officer holding the
20 equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control
21 shall act as compact administrator for that state and shall consult
22 with like officials of the other member states and shall im-
23 plement cooperation between such states in forest fire preven-
24 tion and control.

1 The compact administrators of the member states shall
2 coordinate the services of the member states and provide
3 administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of
4 this compact.

5 There shall be established an advisory committee of leg-
6 islators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry
7 or forest products industries representatives which shall meet
8 from time to time with the compact administrators. Each
9 member state shall name one member of the Senate and one
10 member of the House of Representatives who shall be desig-
11 nated by that state's commission on interstate cooperation,
12 or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate the
13 said members, they shall be designated in accordance with
14 laws of that state; and the Governor of each member state
15 shall appoint two representatives, one of whom shall be asso-
16 ciated with forestry or forest products industries to comprise
17 the membership of the advisory committee. Action shall be
18 taken by a majority of the compacting states, and each state
19 shall be entitled to one vote.

20 The compact administrators shall formulate and, in ac-
21 cordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional
22 forest fire plan for the member states.

23 It shall be the duty of each member state to formulate
24 and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state and take

1 such measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest
2 fire plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the
3 compact administrators.

4 ARTICLE IV.

5 Whenever the state forest fire control agency of a
6 member state requests aid from the state forest fire con-
7 trol agency of any other member state in combating, con-
8 trolling or preventing forest fires, it shall be the duty
9 of the state forest fire control agency of that state to render
10 all possible aid to the requesting agency which is consonant
11 with the maintenance of protection at home.

12 ARTICLE V.

13 Whenever the forces of any member state are render-
14 ing outside aid pursuant to the request of another mem-
15 ber state under this compact, the employees of such state
16 shall, under the direction of the officers of the state to
17 which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (ex-
18 cept the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges and
19 immunities as comparable employees of the state to which
20 they are rendering aid.

21 No member state or its officers or employees rendering
22 outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on
23 account of any act or omission on the part of such forces
24 while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance, or
25 use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith;

1 Provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as relieving
2 any person from liability for his own negligent act or omis-
3 sion, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omis-
4 sion upon any state.

5 All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter,
6 that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state
7 or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of
8 a third state on account of or in connection with a re-
9 quest for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting
10 state.

11 Any member state rendering outside aid pursuant to
12 this compact shall be reimbursed by the member state re-
13 ceiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense in-
14 curred in the operation of any equipment answering a re-
15 quest for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transporta-
16 tion, wages, salaries, and subsistence of employees and
17 maintenance of equipment incurred in connection with such
18 request: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall pre-
19 vent any assisting member state from assuming such loss,
20 damage, expense or other cost or from loaning such equip-
21 ment or from donating such service to the receiving member
22 state without charge or cost.

23 Each member state shall provide for the payment of
24 compensation and death benefits to injured employees and

1 the representatives of deceased employees in case employees
2 sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid pur-
3 suant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same
4 terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such
5 state.

6 For the purposes of this compact the term employee shall
7 include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within
8 the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under the
9 laws thereof.

10 The compact administrators shall formulate procedures
11 for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this
12 article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

13 ARTICLE VI.

14 Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to
15 affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit cur-
16 tailment or diminution of the forest fire fighting forces, equip-
17 ment, services or facilities of any member state.

18 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or
19 restrict the powers of any state ratifying the same to provide
20 for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires,
21 or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws,
22 rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, con-
23 trol and extinguishment in such state.

1 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any
2 existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement
3 between any federal agency and a member state or states.

4 ARTICLE VII.

5 The compact administrators may request the United
6 States Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating
7 agency of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection
8 Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in
9 each state, and the United States Forest Service may accept
10 responsibility for preparing and presenting to the compact
11 administrators its recommendations with respect to the re-
12 gional fire plan. Representatives of any federal agency en-
13 gaged in forest fire prevention and control may attend
14 meetings of the compact administrators.

15 ARTICLE VIII.

16 The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact
17 which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or pre-
18 venting forest fires shall be operative as between any state
19 party to this compact and any other state which is party to
20 a regional forest fire protection compact in another region:
21 Provided, that the legislature of such other state shall have
22 given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this
23 compact.

9 SEC. 2. Without further submission of the compact, the
0 consent of Congress is given to any State to become a party
1 to it in accordance with its terms.

Passed the Senate May 24 (legislative day, May 13),
1954.

J. MARK TRICE,
Secretary.

AN ACT

Granting the consent and approval of Congress
to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire
Protection Compact.

MAY 25, 1954
Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

83^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9345

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 1954

Mr. GRANT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

Granting the consent and approval of Congress to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given to
4 the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact,
5 as hereinafter set out. Such compact reads as follows:

6 SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE
7 PROTECTION COMPACT

8 ARTICLE I.

9 The purpose of this compact is to promote effective pre-
10 vention and control of forest fires in the Southeastern region
11 of the United States by the development of integrated forest

1 fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting
2 services by the member states, by providing for mutual aid
3 in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the
4 region and with states which are party to other Regional
5 Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for
6 more adequate forest protection.

7 ARTICLE II.

8 This compact shall become operative immediately as to
9 those states ratifying it whenever any two or more of the
10 states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi,
11 North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and
12 West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and
13 Congress has given consent thereto. Any state not men-
14 tioned in this article which is contiguous with any member
15 state may become a party to this compact, subject to ap-
16 proval by the legislature of each of the member states.

17 ARTICLE III.

18 In each state, the state forester or officer holding the
19 equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control
20 shall act as compact administrator for that state and shall
21 consult with like officials of the other member states and
22 shall implement cooperation between such states in forest
23 fire prevention and control.

24 The compact administrators of the member states shall
25 coordinate the services of the member states and provide

1 administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of
2 this compact.

3 There shall be established an advisory committee of
4 legislators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry
5 or forest products industries representatives which shall meet
6 from time to time with the compact administrators. Each
7 member state shall name one member of the Senate and
8 one member of the House of Representatives who shall be
9 designated by that state's commission on interstate coopera-
10 tion, or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate
11 the said members, they shall be designated in accordance
12 with laws of that state; and the Governor of each member
13 state shall appoint two representatives, one of whom shall be
14 associated with forestry or forest products industries to com-
15 prise the membership of the advisory committee. Action
16 shall be taken by a majority of the compacting states, and
17 each state shall be entitled to one vote.

18 The compact administrators shall formulate and, in
19 accordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional
20 forest fire plan for the member states.

21 It shall be the duty of each member state to formulate
22 and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state and take such
23 measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest fire
24 plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the
25 compact administrators.

ARTICLE IV.

Whenever the state forest fire control agency of a member state requests aid from the state forest fire control agency of any other member state in combating, controlling or preventing forest fires, it shall be the duty of the state forest fire control agency of that state to render all possible aid to the requesting agency which is consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.

ARTICLE V.

Whenever the forces of any member state are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of another member state under this compact, the employees of such state shall, under the direction of the officers of the state to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges and immunities as comparable employees of the state to which they are rendering aid.

No member state or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance, or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith; Provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as relieving any person from liability for his own negligent act or omission, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omission upon any state.

1 All liability, except as other wise provided hereinafter,
2 that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state
3 or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of a
4 third state on account of or in connection with a request for
5 aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting state.

6 Any member state rendering outside aid pursuant to this
7 compact shall be reimbursed by the member state receiving
8 such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the
9 operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and
10 for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries,
11 and subsistence of employees and maintenance of equipment
12 incurred in connection with such request: Provided, that
13 nothing herein contained shall prevent any assisting member
14 state from assuming such loss, damage, expense or other cost
15 or from loaning such equipment or from donating such serv-
16 ice to the receiving member state without charge or cost.

17 Each member state shall provide for the payment of
18 compensation and death benefits to injured employees and
19 the representatives of deceased employees in case employees
20 sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid
21 pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the
22 same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within
23 such state.

24 For the purposes of this compact the term employee
25 shall include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included

1 within the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under
2 the laws thereof.

3 The compact administrators shall formulate procedures
4 for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this
5 article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

6 ARTICLE VI.

7 Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to
8 affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit cur-
9 tailment or diminution of the forest fire fighting forces,
10 equipment, services or facilities of any member state.

11 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or
12 restrict the powers of any state ratifying the same to provide
13 for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires,
14 or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws,
15 rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, con-
16 trol and extinguishment in such state.

17 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any
18 existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement
19 between any federal agency and a member state or states.

20 ARTICLE VII.

21 The compact administrators may request the United
22 States Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating
23 agency of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection
24 Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in each

1 state, and the United States Forest Service may accept re-
2 sponsibility for preparing and presenting to the compact
3 administrators its recommendations with respect to the re-
4 gional fire plan. Representatives of any federal agency en-
5 gaged in forest fire prevention and control may attend meet-
6 ings of the compact administrators.

7 ARTICLE VIII.

8 The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact
9 which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or pre-
10 venting forest fires shall be operative as between any state
11 party to this compact and any other state which is party to
12 a regional forest fire protection compact in another region:
13 Provided, that the legislature of such other state shall have
14 given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this compact.

15 ARTICLE IX.

16 This compact shall continue in force and remain bind-
17 ing on each state ratifying it until the legislature or the
18 Governor of such state, as the laws of such state shall pro-
19 vide, takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action
20 shall not be effective until six months after notice thereof has
21 been sent by the chief executive of the state desiring to
22 withdraw to the chief executives of all states then parties to
23 the compact.

24 SEC. 2. Without further submission of the compact, the

1 consent of Congress is given to any State to become a party
2 to it in accordance with its terms.

3 SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act
4 is expressly reserved.

83d CONGRESS
2d Session

H. R. 9345

A BILL

Granting the consent and approval of Congress
to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire
Protection Compact.

By Mr. GRANT

MAY 26, 1954

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

JULY 8, 1954.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State-
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HOPE, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9345]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9345) granting the consent and approval of Congress to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

This bill would grant the approval of the Congress to a compact by 10 Southeastern States for a cooperative program in preventing and suppressing forest fires. The compact follows the general pattern of the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, which the Congress approved in 1949.

The bill reported herewith (H. R. 9345) is identical with the bill S. 2786, which passed the Senate May 24, 1954, and has been referred to this committee.

Inasmuch as the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry had obtained from the Department of Agriculture, prior to the introduction of H. R. 9345, a report recommending approval of the bill, no separate report on the House bill was requested from the Department and the letter of the Secretary to the Senate committee relative to the bill S. 3786 is attached hereto as a part of this report.

2 SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C., May 12, 1954.

HON. GEORGE D. AIKEN,
*Chairman, Committee on Agricultural and Forestry,
United States Senate.*

DEAR SENATOR AIKEN: This is in reply to your request of January 21, 1954, for a report on S. 2786, a bill granting the consent and approval of Congress to the southeastern interstate forest fire protection compact.

This bill would grant approval of Congress to a compact by certain Southeastern States to obtain cooperation in preventing and suppressing forest fires. It would provide for individual State fire plans and an integrated regional fire plan. Compact administrators, one from each State, would guide the compact with the assistance of an advisory committee representing legislators, forestry commissions, and forest industry. A State requesting aid would be required to assume costs for States rendering aid. The bill would provide that the compact shall not affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between any Federal agency and a member State or States. S. 2786 follows the general pattern of the northeastern interstate forest fire protection compact, enacted in 1949 (63 Stat. 271).

The enactment of the bill would not affect the programs of this Department. Neither would it obligate the Department unless it accepted responsibilities under article VII. That article states that the compact administrators may request the Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating agency of the compact and authorizes the Forest Service to present to the compact administrators its recommendations with respect to the regional fire plan. This Department could accept the research and coordinating responsibilities under existing authority and without additional direct Federal expenditures.

The severe drought of the past 2 years in the Southeastern States indicates a need beyond the capacity of a single State when a forest fire disaster strikes. This is a principal reason why the compact is proposed.

Protection of the timber resource from fires is important to the economic and industrial stability of the Southeast. The 10 States comprising the proposed compact area contain more than 98 billion cubic feet of standing timber, or 21 percent of the standing timber in the United States. The area produces about half of the Nation's pulpwood and about one-third of its lumber.

This Department believes that the interstate compact proposed in S. 2786 would be helpful in attaining greater protection against forest fires in the member States and, therefore, recommends enactment of the bill.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that from the standpoint of the program of the President there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

E. T. BENSON, *Secretary*

83^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 9345

[Report No. 2099]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 1954

MR. GRANT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

JULY 8, 1954

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

Granting the consent and approval of Congress to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given to
4 the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact,
5 as hereinafter set out. Such compact reads as follows:

6 SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE
7 PROTECTION COMPACT

8 ARTICLE I.

9 The purpose of this compact is to promote effective pre-
10 vention and control of forest fires in the Southeastern region
11 of the United States by the development of integrated forest

1 fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting
2 services by the member states, by providing for mutual aid
3 in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the
4 region and with states which are party to other Regional
5 Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for
6 more adequate forest protection.

7 ARTICLE II.

8 This compact shall become operative immediately as to
9 those states ratifying it whenever any two or more of the
10 states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi,
11 North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and
12 West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and
13 Congress has given consent thereto. Any state not men-
14 tioned in this article which is contiguous with any member
15 state may become a party to this compact, subject to ap-
16 proval by the legislature of each of the member states.

17 ARTICLE III.

18 In each state, the state forester or officer holding the
19 equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control
20 shall act as compact administrator for that state and shall
21 consult with like officials of the other member states and
22 shall implement cooperation between such states in forest
23 fire prevention and control.

24 The compact administrators of the member states shall
25 coordinate the services of the member states and provide

1 administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of
2 this compact.

3 There shall be established an advisory committee of
4 legislators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry
5 or forest products industries representatives which shall meet
6 from time to time with the compact administrators. Each
7 member state shall name one member of the Senate and
8 one member of the House of Representatives who shall be
9 designated by that state's commission on interstate coopera-
10 tion, or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate
11 the said members, they shall be designated in accordance
12 with laws of that state; and the Governor of each member
13 state shall appoint two representatives, one of whom shall be
14 associated with forestry or forest products industries to com-
15 prise the membership of the advisory committee. Action
16 shall be taken by a majority of the compacting states, and
17 each state shall be entitled to one vote.

18 The compact administrators shall formulate and, in
19 accordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional
20 forest fire plan for the member states.

21 It shall be the duty of each member state to formulate
22 and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state and take such
23 measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest fire
24 plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the
25 compact administrators.

1 ARTICLE IV.

2 Whenever the state forest fire control agency of a mem-
3 ber state requests aid from the state forest fire control agency
4 of any other member state in combating, controlling or pre-
5 venting forest fires, it shall be the duty of the state forest fire
6 control agency of that state to render all possible aid to the
7 requesting agency which is consonant with the maintenance
8 of protection at home.

9 ARTICLE V.

10 Whenever the forces of any member state are rendering
11 outside aid pursuant to the request of another member state
12 under this compact, the employees of such state shall, under
13 the direction of the officers of the state to which they are ren-
14 dering aid, have the same powers (except the power of ar-
15 rest), duties, rights, privileges and immunities as comparable
16 employees of the state to which they are rendering aid.

17 No member state or its officers or employees rendering
18 outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on ac-
19 count of any act or omission on the part of such forces
20 while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance, or use
21 of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith; Pro-
22 vided, that nothing herein shall be construed as relieving
23 any person from liability for his own negligent act or omis-
24 sion, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or
25 omission upon any state.

1 All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter,
2 that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state
3 or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of a
4 third state on account of or in connection with a request for
5 aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting state.

6 Any member state rendering outside aid pursuant to this
7 compact shall be reimbursed by the member state receiving
8 such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the
9 operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and
10 for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries,
11 and subsistence of employees and maintenance of equipment
12 incurred in connection with such request: Provided, that
13 nothing herein contained shall prevent any assisting member
14 state from assuming such loss, damage, expense or other cost
15 or from loaning such equipment or from donating such serv-
16 ice to the receiving member state without charge or cost.

17 Each member state shall provide for the payment of
18 compensation and death benefits to injured employees and
19 the representatives of deceased employees in case employees
20 sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid
21 pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the
22 same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within
23 such state.

24 For the purposes of this compact the term employee
25 shall include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included

1 within the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under
2 the laws thereof.

3 The compact administrators shall formulate procedures
4 for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this
5 article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

6 ARTICLE VI.

7 Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to
8 affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit cur-
9 tailment or diminution of the forest fire fighting forces,
10 equipment, services or facilities of any member state.

11 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or
12 restrict the powers of any state ratifying the same to provide
13 for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires,
14 or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws,
15 rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, con-
16 trol and extinguishment in such state.

17 Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any
18 existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement
19 between any federal agency and a member state or states.

20 ARTICLE VII.

21 The compact administrators may request the United
22 States Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating
23 agency of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection

1 Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in each
2 state, and the United States Forest Service may accept re-
3 sponsibility for preparing and presenting to the compact
4 administrators its recommendations with respect to the re-
5 gional fire plan. Representatives of any federal agency en-
6 gaged in forest fire prevention and control may attend meet-
7 ings of the compact administrators.

8 ARTICLE VIII.

9 The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact
10 which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or pre-
11 venting forest fires shall be operative as between any state
12 party to this compact and any other state which is party to
13 a regional forest fire protection compact in another region:
14 Provided, that the legislature of such other state shall have
15 given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this compact.

16 ARTICLE IX.

17 This compact shall continue in force and remain bind-
18 ing on each state ratifying it until the legislature or the
19 Governor of such state, as the laws of such state shall pro-
20 vide, takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action
21 shall not be effective until six months after notice thereof has
22 been sent by the chief executive of the state desiring to

1 withdraw to the chief executives of all states then parties to
2 the compact.

3 SEC. 2. Without further submission of the compact, the
4 consent of Congress is given to any State to become a party
5 to it in accordance with its terms.

6 SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act
7 is expressly reserved.

A BILL

Granting the consent and approval of Congress
to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire
Protection Compact.

By Mr. GRANT

MAY 26, 1954

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

JULY 8, 1954

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on
the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

19. FORESTRY. Passed without amendment S. 2786, consenting to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact (pp. 10314-5). This bill will now be sent to the President.
Passed without amendment H. R. 6393, consenting to a South Central Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact (pp. 10315-6).
Passed without amendment H. R. 7912, to abolish the Old Kasaan National Monument, Alaska, and return the land to national forest status (p. 10318).
20. FARM LOANS. Passed as reported S. 3487, to authorize the Central Bank for Co-operatives and the regional banks for cooperatives to issue consolidated debentures (p. 10321).
Passed as reported H. R. 7568, to direct the Farm Loan Board of Hawaii to convey certain land and to ratify and confirm certain contracts (p. 10318).
21. CCC BORROWING POWER. The Banking and Currency Committee reported without amendment H. R. 9756, to increase the CCC borrowing power by \$1½ billion (H. Rept. 2269)(p. 10413). The Rules Committee reported a resolution for consideration of this bill (p. 10414).
22. WATER FACILITIES LOANS. The Agriculture Committee reported with amendment S. 3137, to amend the Water Facilities Act (H. Rept. 2290)(p. 10414). For provisions of this bill see Digest 130.
23. PERFORMANCE RATINGS. The Post Office and Civil Service Committee reported on its study of performance ratings for Federal employees (H. Rept. 2277)(p. 10413).
24. RECLAMATION. Received the conference report on H. R. 4854, to authorize the Foster Creek division of Chief Joseph Dam project, Wash. (H. Rept. 2274) (p. 10306).
Concurred in the Senate amendment to H. R. 6786, authorizing Interior to purchase improvements or pay damages for removal of improvements located on U. S. public lands in the Palisades project area (p. 10307). This bill will now be sent to the President.
Rep. Hosmer spoke against certain bills which would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate the Colorado River storage project (pp. 10325-6).
25. DROUGHT RELIEF. Rep. Edmondson urged immediate relief for drought stricken areas (pp. 10326-7).
26. MINERALS; PUBLIC LANDS. Passed with amendment S. 3344, to amend the mineral leasing laws to provide for multiple mineral development of the same tracts of the public lands (pp. 10342-355).
27. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION. Received the conference report on S. 2759, to promote and assist in the extension and improvement of vocational rehabilitation services (H. Rept. 2286) (pp. 10386-92).
28. TRANSPORTATION. The Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee reported without amendment H. R. 6310, to exempt from regulation by the CAB, operations in the transportation of livestock, fish, floricultural, and horticultural commodities (H. Rept. 2281) (p. 10413).

29. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK. The Banking and Currency Committee reported without amendment S. 3589, to provide for the independent management of the Export-Import Bank under a Board of Directors, to provide for representation of the bank on the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Problems, and to increase the bank's lending authority (H. Rept. 2270) (p. 10413). The Rules Committee reported a resolution for consideration of this bill (p. 10414).
30. VETERANS' BENEFITS. The Veterans' Affairs Committee reported with amendment H. R. 9888, to amend the laws granting education and training benefits to certain veterans to extend the period during which such benefits may be offered (H. Rept. 2279) (p. 10413).
31. FLOOD CONTROL. The Rules Committee reported a resolution for the consideration of H. R. 9859, the omnibus flood control bill (p. 10414).
32. EDUCATION. Received conference report on H. R. 9040, to authorize cooperative research in education (H. Rept. 2287) and H. R. 7434, to establish a National Advisory Committee on Education (H. Rept. 2289) (pp. 10392-3).

SENATE (cont'd)

33. APPROPRIATIONS. S. Doc. 140 (July 14) is a supplemental appropriation estimate for the Health, Education, and Welfare Department including the following items: Food and Drug Administration, a provision whereby collection of inspection fees with respect to residues of pesticide chemicals in or on raw agricultural commodities would make the services provided largely self-supporting; Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, \$6,000,000 for grants to States, \$1,831,000 for training of personnel, and \$400,000 for administrative expenses for an immediate expansion of the vocational rehabilitation program; Social Security Administration, increase in trust fund limitation from \$64,400,000 to \$79,000,000 to meet the increased workload which will result from expansion of the old-age and survivors insurance program; Federal Health Reinsurance Service, \$25,000,000 for making payments to the capital-advance fund to be established for advances to the Health Service Prepayment Plan Reinsurance Fund, and \$325,000 for expenses for handling the administration of the Federal Health Reinsurance Service and for technical, advisory, and information services to carriers and other sponsors of health service prepayment plans, and to the general public. The Bureau of the Budget letter states, "It is proposed to establish the Federal Health Reinsurance Service as a separate constituent organization of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This Service will consist of a Director's office, a Bureau of Health Reinsurance, and Bureau of Technical and Advisory Service."

S. Doc. 137 (July 14) is a supplemental appropriation estimate for the Labor Department and includes the following items: Bureau of Employment Security, \$25,000,000 for unemployment compensation payments to Federal employees, \$3,756,000 for grants to States for unemployment compensation and employment service administration, and \$300,000 for salaries and expenses to enable the performance of Federal administrative duties.

S. Doc. 135 (July 13) is a supplemental appropriation estimate for the Interior Department and includes the following items: Bureau of Reclamation, \$875,000 to carry out general investigations work on selected reclamation projects, and \$5,963,000 to permit the initiation of construction work on 3 new projects (including the Glendo unit, Wyo.) and additional work on 4 going projects.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the Senate bill?

There was no objection.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

A motion to reconsider, and a similar House bill, H. R. 9577, were laid on the table.

AMENDING SECTION 87 OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT OF 1916

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 6223) to amend section 87 of the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, as amended (32 U. S. C. 47), to relieve the States from pecuniary liability for property lost, damaged, or destroyed through unavoidable causes and to authorize the States to be relieved from accountability in any case except where it shall appear that the loss, damage, or destruction of the property was due to carelessness or negligence or could have been avoided by the exercise of reasonable care.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 87 of the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, as amended (32 U. S. C. 47), is amended to read as follows:

"DISPOSITION AND REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGED PROPERTY, AND SO FORTH

"SEC. 87. All military property issued to the National Guard and Air National Guard as herein provided shall remain the property of the United States. Whenever any such property issued to the National Guard or Air National Guard in any State or Territory, or the District of Columbia shall have been lost, damaged, or destroyed, or become unserviceable or unsuitable by use in service or from any other cause, it shall be examined by a disinterested surveying officer of the Army of the United States, Air Force of the United States, or the National Guard or Air National Guard detailed by the appropriate Secretary, and the report of such surveying officer shall be forwarded to the appropriate Secretary or to such officer as he shall designate to receive such reports. The appropriate Secretary is hereby authorized to relieve the State, or Territory, or the District of Columbia from further accountability for such property in any case except where it shall appear that the loss, damage, or destruction of property was due to carelessness or neglect, or that its loss, damage, or destruction could have been avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, in which case the money value of such property shall be charged to the accountable State, Territory, or District of Columbia to be paid from State, Territory, or District funds, or any funds other than Federal. If the articles so surveyed are found to be unserviceable or unsuitable, the appropriate Secretary shall direct what disposition by sale or otherwise shall be made of them; and, if sold, the proceeds of such sale, as well as stoppages against officers and enlisted men, and the net proceeds of collections made from any person or from any State, Territory, or District to reimburse the Government for the loss, damage, or destruction of any property, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States: *Provided*, That if any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia shall neglect or refuse to pay, or to cause to be paid, the money equivalent of any loss, damage, or destruction of property charged against such State, Territory, or the District of Columbia by the appropriate Secretary after survey by

a disinterested officer appointed as hereinbefore provided, the appropriate Secretary is hereby authorized to debar such State, Territory, or the District of Columbia from further participation in any and all appropriations for the National Guard or Air National Guard, as appropriate, until such payment shall have been made: *Provided further*, That property issued to the National Guard and Air National Guard and which has become unserviceable through fair wear and tear in service, may, after inspection thereof and finding to that effect made by an officer of the Army of the United States, Air Force of the United States, or the National Guard or Air National Guard detailed by the appropriate Secretary, be sold or otherwise disposed of, and the State, Territory, or the District of Columbia accountable shall be relieved from further accountability therefor; such inspection, and sale or other disposition, to be made under regulations prescribed by the appropriate Secretary, and to constitute as to such property a discretionary substitute for the examination, report, and disposition provided for elsewhere in this section."

With the following committee amendments:

Page 2, line 7, insert a comma after the word "State", delete the first "or", and immediately following the word "Territory", insert the following: ", the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico."

Page 2, lines 11 and 12, delete "Army of the United States, Air Force of the United States" and insert in lieu thereof "United States Army, United States Air Force."

Page 2, line 16, following the word "Secretary", insert "or his designated representative."

Page 2, line 17, insert a comma after the word "State", delete the word "or", and immediately following the word, "Territory" insert the following: ", Commonwealth of Puerto Rico."

Page 2, line 18, following the word "accountability", add "and pecuniary liability."

Page 2, line 24, following "Territory," add "Commonwealth of Puerto Rico."

Page 2, line 25, following "Territory," add "Commonwealth."

Page 3, line 2, following "Secretary", add "or his designated representative."

Page 3, line 7, following "Territory," add "the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico", following "or" add the word "the", and following "District" add the words "of Columbia."

Page 3, line 10, following "Territory," add "the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico."

Page 3, line 13, following "Territory," add "the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico."

Page 3, line 17, following "Territory," add "the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico."

Page 4, line 3, following "Territory," add "Commonwealth of Puerto Rico."

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend section 87 of the National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, as amended (32 U. S. C. 47), to relieve the States from accountability and pecuniary liability for property lost, damaged, or destroyed except in cases where it shall appear that the loss, damage, or destruction of the property was due to carelessness or negligence or could have been avoided by the exercise of reasonable care."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMEND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 7734) to amend section 47 of the National Defense Act to relieve State-operated educational institutions, under stated conditions, from giving bond for certain property issued by the United States for use by Reserve Officers' Training Corps units maintained at such institutions.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 47 of the National Defense Act, as amended (10 U. S. C. 389), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "No such bond shall be required of any institution operated by any State so long as that institution provides such measures for the care and safekeeping of nonexpendable property as the Secretary of the Army, or the Secretary of the Air Force in the case of property issued by the Department of the Air Force, shall determine as a result of periodic inspection to be adequate to protect the interest of the United States therein."

With the following committee amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following: "That section 47 of the National Defense Act, as amended (10 U. S. C. 389), is further amended by deleting the last sentence thereof and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

"The Secretary of the Army, or the Secretary of the Air Force in the case of property of the Department of the Air Force, shall require a bond or other indemnity in such amount as he considers appropriate for the care and safekeeping of all such Government property issued to an educational institution, except uniforms, expendable articles, and supplies expended in operation, maintenance, and instruction."

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend section 47 of the National Defense Act concerning the requirement for bond covering certain property issued by the United States for use by Reserve Officers' Training Corps units maintained at educational institutions."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSFER OF LAND IN SALT LAKE CITY

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 9482) authorizing the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to convey certain property to the Armory Board, State of Utah.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, the bill, S. 3561, is an identical bill to the House bill and I ask unanimous consent that it be considered in lieu of the House bill.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs is authorized and directed to convey, without monetary consideration and subject to the conditions in section 2 of this act, to the Armory Board, State of Utah, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a tract of 35 acres of land, more or less, situated in the western end of the Veterans' Administration hospital reservation, Fort Douglas Station, Salt Lake City, Utah, the exact legal description of which shall be determined by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

SEC. 2. The deed of conveyance authorized under the provisions of this act shall—

(a) provide that such tract shall not be alienated in the whole or in part by the Armory Board and shall be used only for training, civic, and related purposes;

(b) provide that, if such tract is so used in any manner that, in the judgment of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs or his designate, interferes with the care and treatment of patients in the Veterans' Administration hospital located on land contiguous to such tract, such interference shall cease immediately upon notice thereof to the Armory Board by the Administrator or his designate;

(c) provide that, if either of the conditions prescribed in clauses (a) and (b) of this section are violated, title to such tract shall revert to the United States; and

(d) shall reserve all mineral rights, including gas and oil, to the United States, and contain such additional terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions as may be determined by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to be necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

A similar bill (H. R. 9482) was laid on the table.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 9345) granting the consent and approval of Congress to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, the bill, S. 2786, is an identical bill and I ask unanimous consent that it be considered in lieu of the House bill.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, as hereinafter set out. Such compact reads as follows:

SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

Article I

The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Southeastern region of the United States by the development of integrated forest fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member States, by providing for mutual aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting States of the region and with States which

are party to other regional forest fire protection compacts or agreements, and for more adequate forest protection.

Article II

This compact shall become operative immediately as to those States ratifying it whenever any two or more of the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and Congress has given consent thereto. Any State not mentioned in this article which is contiguous with any member State may become a party to this compact, subject to approval by the legislature of each of the member States.

Article III

In each State, the State forester or officer holding the equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control shall act as compact administrator for that State and shall consult with like officials of the other member States and shall implement cooperation between such States in forest fire prevention and control.

The compact administrators of the member States shall coordinate the services of the member States and provide administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of this compact.

There shall be established an advisory committee of legislators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry or forest products industries representatives which shall meet from time to time with the compact administrators. Each member State shall name 1 Member of the Senate and 1 Member of the House of Representatives who shall be designated by that State's commission on interstate cooperation, or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate the said members, they shall be designated in accordance with laws of that State; and the governor of each member State shall appoint 2 representatives, 1 of whom shall be associated with forestry or forest products industries to comprise the membership of the advisory committee. Action shall be taken by a majority of the compacting States, and each State shall be entitled to one vote.

The compact administrators shall formulate and, in accordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional forest fire plan for the member States.

It shall be the duty of each member State to formulate and put in effect a forest fire plan for that State and take such measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest fire plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the compact administrators.

Article IV

Whenever the State forest fire control agency of a member State requests aid from the State forest fire control agency of any other member State in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires, it shall be the duty of the State forest fire control agency of that State to render all possible aid to the requesting agency which is consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.

Article V

Whenever the forces of any member State are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of another member State under this compact, the employees of such State shall, under the direction of the officers of the State to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as comparable employees of the State to which they are rendering aid.

No member State or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance, or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith; *Provided,*

that nothing herein shall be construed as relieving any person from liability for his own negligent act or omission, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omission upon any State.

All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter, that may arise either under the laws of the requesting State or under the laws of the aiding State or under the laws of a third State on account of or in connection with a request for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting State.

Any member State rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the member State receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries, and subsistence of employees and maintenance of equipment incurred in connection with such request: *Provided,* that nothing herein contained shall prevent any assisting member State from assuming such loss, damage, expense or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from donating such service to the receiving member State without charge or cost.

Each member State shall provide for the payment of compensation and death benefits to injured employees and the representatives of deceased employees in case employees sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such State.

For the purposes of this compact the term employee shall include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within the forest fire-fighting forces of the aiding State under the laws thereof.

The compact administrators shall formulate procedures for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this article, in accordance with the laws of the member States.

Article VI

Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit curtailment or diminution of the forest fire-fighting forces, equipment, services or facilities of any member State.

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or restrict the powers of any State ratifying the same to provide for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires, or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of State laws, rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, control and extinguishment in such State.

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between any Federal agency and a member State or States.

Article VII

The compact administrators may request the United States Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating agency of the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in each State, and the United States Forest Service may accept responsibility for preparing and presenting to the compact administrators its recommendations with respect to the regional fire plan. Representatives of any Federal agency engaged in forest fire prevention and control may attend meetings of the compact administrators.

Article VIII

The provisions of articles IV and V of this compact which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or preventing forest fires shall be operative as between any State party to this compact and any other State which is party to a regional forest fire protection

compact in another region: Provided, that the legislature of such other State shall have given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this compact.

Article IX

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each State ratifying it until the legislature or the Governor of such State, as the laws of such State shall provide, takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be effective until 6 months after notice thereof has been sent by the chief executive of the State desiring to withdraw to the chief executives of all States then parties to the compact.

SEC. 2. Without further submission of the compact, the consent of Congress is given to any State to become a party to it is accordance with its terms.

SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this act is expressly reserved.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

A similar bill (H. R. 9345) was laid on the table.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTRACT RESEARCH

The Clerk called the bill (S. 2367) to amend the act of June 29, 1935 (the Bankhead-Jones Act), as amended, to strengthen the conduct of research of the Department of Agriculture.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the act of June 29, 1935 (the Bankhead-Jones Act), as amended (7. U. S. C. 427-427j), is amended by adding at the end of section 10 thereof the following:

"(e) Appropriations for research work in the Department of Agriculture shall be available for accomplishing such purposes by contract through the means provided in subsection (a) hereof."

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING BANKS FOR COOPERATIVES TO ISSUE CONSOLIDATED DEBENTURES

The Clerk called the bill (S. 3487) to authorize the Central Bank for Cooperatives and the regional banks for cooperatives to issue consolidated debentures, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the bill?

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, this seems to be a rather broad bill, if not a rather far-reaching bill, and I would like to have a member of the committee state why it should be passed by unanimous consent. It seems to me this is a bill that should come up under the regular rules of the House or under suspension of the rules.

Mr. HOPE. Mr. Speaker, I shall be very glad to explain the bill.

Mr. McCORMACK. I know what the bill is. I have read it, but it seems to me this is not a bill that should be passed without some debate. I have no objection to the bill myself; however, some bills should come up under conditions where there is opportunity for Members to debate the matter. Will the gentle-

man state why he thinks this is not one of those bills?

Mr. HOPE. I am not going to argue with the gentleman over the question of whether this is or is not an important bill. It is a bill of some importance as far as financing the banks for cooperatives is concerned. It is a bill which I understand has no opposition, at least I know of none and in the closing days of the session our committee felt it was important to get the bill passed as expeditiously as possible. For that reason we had it put on the Consent Calendar.

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. I have spoken to the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. HOPE], and I am sure that this bill is satisfactory.

Mr. McCORMACK. I have no objection to the bill myself. Is it not of such importance that it should come up under the rules of the House which afford Members some opportunity of debate rather than to be passed on the Consent Calendar?

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

ROTATION OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION STOCKS

The Clerk called the bill (S. 1381) to amend the Agricultural Act of 1949.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That section 407 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: "Nor shall the foregoing restrictions apply to sales of commodities the disposition of which is desirable in the interest of the effective and efficient conduct of the Corporation's operations because of the small quantities involved, or because of age, location, or questionable continued storability, but such sales shall be offset by such purchases of commodities as the Corporation determines are necessary to prevent such sales from substantially impairing any price-support program, but in no event shall the purchase price exceed the then current support price for such commodities."

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INDEMNITIES FOR SWINE DESTROYED IN 1952

The Clerk called the bill (S. 2583) to indemnify against loss all persons whose swine were destroyed in July 1952 as a result of having been infected with or exposed to the contagious disease vesicular exanthema.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to indemnify in an amount equal to 50 percent of their loss, but not exceeding the indemnity paid by the State, all persons whose swine were destroyed under authority of law in July 1952 as a result of having been infected with or exposed to the contagious disease vesicular exanthema.

SEC. 2. The payment of indemnities under the provisions of this act shall be limited, in the absence of Federal appraisal, to those losses where required proof of such losses has been made to the State and 50 percent of said loss has been paid by such State.

SEC. 3. Payments made pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be made from funds currently available to the Department of Agriculture.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOUTH CENTRAL INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

The Clerk called the bill (H. R. 6393) granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given to any two or more of the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas to enter into the following compact relating to the prevention and control of forest fires in the south central region of the United States.

The compact reads as follows:

"SOUTH CENTRAL INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

"Article I

"The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the south central region of the United States by the development of integrated forest fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member States, by providing for mutual aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting States of the region and with States which are party to other regional forest fire protection compacts or agreements, and for more adequate forest development.

"Article II

"This compact shall become operative immediately as to those States ratifying it whenever any two or more of the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas which are contiguous have ratified it and Congress has given consent thereto. Any State not mentioned in this article which is contiguous with any member State may become a party to this compact, subject to approval by the legislature of each of the member States.

"Article III

"In each State, the State forester or officer holding the equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control shall act as compact administrator for that State and shall consult with like officials of the other member States and shall implement cooperation between such States in forest fire prevention and control.

"The compact administrators of the member States shall organize to coordinate the services of the member States and provide administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of this compact.

"There shall be established an advisory committee of legislators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry or forest products industries representatives which shall meet from time to time with the compact administrators. Each member State shall name one Member of the Senate and one Member of the House of Representatives, and the Governor of each member State shall appoint one representative who shall be the chairman of the State forestry commission or comparable official and one representative who shall be associated with forestry or

forest products industries to comprise the membership of the advisory committee. Action shall be taken by a majority of the compacting States, and each State shall be entitled to one vote.

"The compact administrators shall formulate and, in accordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional forest fire plan for the member States.

"It shall be the duty of each member State to formulate and put in effect a forest fire plan for that State and take such measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest fire plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the compact administrators.

"Article IV

"Whenever the State forest fire control agency of a member State requests aid from the State forest fire control agency of any other member State in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires, it shall be the duty of the State forest fire control agency of that State to render all possible aid to the requesting agency which is consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.

"Article V

"Whenever the forces of any member State are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of another member State under this compact, the employees of such State shall, under the direction of the officers of the State to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as comparable employees of the State to which they are rendering aid.

"No member State or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall be construed as relieving any person from liability for his own negligent act or omission, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omission upon any State.

"All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter, that may arise either under the laws of the requesting State or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of a third State on account of or in connection with a request for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting State.

"Any member State rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the member State receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries, and maintenance of employees and equipment incurred in connection with such request: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall prevent any assisting member State from assuming such loss, damage, expense, or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from donating such service to the receiving member State without charge or cost.

"Each member State shall provide for the payment of compensation and death benefits to injured employees and the representatives of deceased employees in case employees sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such state.

"For the purposes of this compact the term employee shall include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within the forest-fire-fighting forces of the aiding State under the laws thereof.

"The compact administrators shall formulate procedures for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this article,

in accordance with the laws of the member States.

"Article VI

"Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit curtailment or diminution of the forest-fire-fighting forces, equipment, services, or facilities of any member State.

"Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or restrict the powers of any State ratifying the same to provide for the prevention, control, and extinguishment of forest fires, or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of State laws, rules, or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, control, and extinguishment in such State.

"Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between the United States Forest Service and a member State or States.

"Article VII

"The compact administrators may request the United States Forest Service to act as the primary research and coordinating agency of the South Central Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in each State, and the United States Forest Service may accept the initial responsibility in preparing and presenting to the compact administrators its recommendations with respect to the regional fire plan. Representatives of the United States Forest Service may attend meetings of the compact administrators.

"Article VIII

"The provisions of article IV and V of this compact which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires shall be operative as between any State party to this compact and any other State which is party to a regional forest-fire protection compact in another region: *Provided*, That the legislature of such other State shall have given its assent to such mutual-aid provisions of this compact.

"Article IX

"This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each State ratifying it until the legislature or the Governor of such State takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be effective until 6 months after notice thereof has been sent by the chief executive of the State desiring to withdraw to the chief executives of all States then parties to the compact."

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GOVERNMENTAL USE OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk called the resolution (S. J. Res. 96) to strengthen the foreign relations of the United States by establishing a Commission on Governmental Use of International Telecommunications.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Whereas the overseas information program as carried on through the media of telecommunications is of continuing and increasing importance in carrying out and supporting the foreign policies of the United States; and

Whereas in his state of the Union message February 2, 1953, the President asserted the necessity "to make more effective all activities related to international information": Therefore be it,

Resolved, etc., That there is hereby established a commission to be known as the

Commission on Governmental Use of International Telecommunications (In this act referred to as the "Commission").

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 2. Number and appointment: The Commission shall be composed of nine members as follows:

(1) Five appointed by the President of the United States, of whom at least 1 shall be appointed from the telecommunications industry and at least 1 from the field of education and of whom not more than 3 shall be from the same political party;

(2) Two appointed from the Senate by the President of the Senate of whom not more than one shall be from the same political party; and

(3) Two appointed from the House of Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of whom not more than one shall be from the same political party.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 3. The Commission shall choose its Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members and shall establish its own procedure.

QUORUM

SEC. 4. Five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 5. (a) Members of Congress: Members of Congress who are members of the Commission shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as Members of Congress; but without regard to any other provision of law they shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Commission and reasonable advances may be made to them for such purposes.

(b) Members of the executive branch: Any members of the Commission who may be in the executive branch of the Government shall receive the compensation which he would receive if he were not a member of the Commission, but without regard to any other provision of law they shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Commission and reasonable advances may be made to them for such purposes.

(c) Members from private life: The members from private life shall receive not to exceed \$75 per diem when engaged in the performance of duties vested in the Commission, plus reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of such duties.

STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 6. The Commission shall have power to appoint a Secretary General at a salary of not to exceed \$15,000 per annum, and an Assistant Secretary General at a salary of not to exceed \$12,500 per annum, and such other personnel in accordance with the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, or to obtain assistance from Government agencies on a reimbursable basis. The Commission is further authorized to employ experts and consultants for temporary and intermittent personal services, but at rates not to exceed \$75 per diem for each individual. The Commission is authorized without regard to any other provision of law to reimburse employees, experts, and consultants for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their official duties and to make reasonable advances to such persons for such purposes.

EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 7. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, not to exceed \$250,000 to carry out the provisions of this act.

Public Law 536 - 83d Congress
Chapter 581 - 2d Session
S. 2786

AN ACT

Granting the consent and approval of Congress to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the consent and approval of Congress is hereby given to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, as hereinafter set out. Such compact reads as follows:

Southeastern
Interstate Forest
Fire Protection
Compact.
Consent and ap-
proval of Con-
gress.

SOUTHEASTERN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE
PROTECTION COMPACT

ARTICLE I.

The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Southeastern region of the United States by the development of integrated forest fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member states, by providing for mutual aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region and with states which are party to other Regional Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for more adequate forest protection.

ARTICLE II.

This compact shall become operative immediately as to those states ratifying it whenever any two or more of the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, which are contiguous have ratified it and Congress has given consent thereto. Any state not mentioned in this article which is contiguous with any member state may become a party to this compact, subject to approval by the legislature of each of the member states.

68 Stat. 563.

68 Stat. 564.

ARTICLE III.

In each state, the state forester or officer holding the equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control shall act as compact administrator for that state and shall consult with like officials of the other member states and shall implement cooperation between such states in forest fire prevention and control.

The compact administrators of the member states shall coordinate the services of the member states and provide administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of this compact.

There shall be established an advisory committee of legislators, forestry commission representatives, and forestry or forest products industries representatives which shall meet from time to time with the compact administrators. Each member state shall name one member of the Senate and one member of the House of Representatives who shall be designated by that state's commission on interstate cooperation, or if said commission cannot constitutionally designate the said members, they shall be designated in accordance with laws of that state; and the Governor of each member state shall appoint two representatives, one of whom shall be associated with forestry or forest products industries to comprise the membership of the advisory committee. Action shall be taken by a majority of the compacting states, and each state shall be entitled to one vote.

The compact administrators shall formulate and, in accordance with need, from time to time, revise a regional forest fire plan for the member states.

It shall be the duty of each member state to formulate and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state and take such measures as may be necessary to integrate such forest fire plan with the regional forest fire plan formulated by the compact administrators.

ARTICLE IV.

Whenever the state forest fire control agency of a member state requests aid from the state forest fire control agency of any other member state in combating, controlling or preventing forest fires, it shall be the duty of the state forest fire control agency of that state to render all possible aid to the requesting agency which is consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.

ARTICLE V.

Whenever the forces of any member state are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of another member state under this compact, the employees of such state shall, under the direction of the officers of the state to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges and immunities as comparable employees of the state to which they are rendering aid.

No member state or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance, or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith; Provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as relieving any person from liability for his own negligent act or omission, or as imposing liability for such negligent act or omission upon any state.

All liability, except as otherwise provided hereinafter, that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of a third state on account of or in connection with a request for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting state.

68 Stat. 564.

68 Stat. 565.

Any member state rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the member state receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries, and subsistence of employees and maintenance of equipment incurred in connection with such request: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall prevent any assisting member state from assuming such loss, damage, expense or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from donating such service to the receiving member state without charge or cost.

Each member state shall provide for the payment of compensation and death benefits to injured employees and the representatives of deceased employees in case employees sustain injuries or are killed while rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact, in the same manner and on the same terms as if the injury or death were sustained within such state.

For the purposes of this compact the term employee shall include any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under the laws thereof.

The compact administrators shall formulate procedures for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

ARTICLE VI.

Ratification of this compact shall not be construed to affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit curtailment or diminution of the forest fire fighting forces, equipment, services or facilities of any member state.

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to limit or restrict the powers of any state ratifying the same to provide for the prevention, control and extinguishment of forest fires, or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws, rules or regulations intended to aid in such prevention, control and extinguishment in such state.

Nothing in this compact shall be construed to affect any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between any federal agency and a member state or states.

ARTICLE VII.

The compact administrators may request the United States Forest Service to act as a research and coordinating agency of the South-eastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact in cooperation with the appropriate agencies in each state, and the United States Forest Service may accept responsibility for preparing and presenting to the compact administrators its recommendations with respect to the regional fire plan. Representatives of any federal agency engaged in forest fire prevention and control may attend meetings of the compact administrators.

ARTICLE VIII.

The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling or preventing forest fires shall be operative as between any state party to this compact and any other state which is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region: Provided, that the legislature of such other state shall have given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this compact.

ARTICLE IX.

68 Stat. 565.
68 Stat. 566.

This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each state ratifying it until the legislature or the Governor of such state, as the laws of such state shall provide, takes action to withdraw therefrom. Such action shall not be effective until six months after notice thereof has been sent by the chief executive of the state desiring to withdraw to the chief executives of all states then parties to the compact.

SEC. 2. Without further submission of the compact, the consent of Congress is given to any State to become a party to it in accordance with its terms.

Congressional
approval.

SEC. 3. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved.

Approved July 27, 1954.

